

## Coronavirus

# SmartNotes

## Coronavirus: CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens

In response to increasing queries regarding viral transport media appropriate for collecting, handling and testing clinical specimens related to coronavirus, we take the opportunity to highlight interim guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).














All testing for coronavirus should be conducted in consultation with a healthcare provider. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a decision has been made to pursue testing, regardless of the time of symptom onset. The guidance below addresses options for collection of specimens.

For initial diagnostic testing for coronavirus, CDC recommends<sup>1</sup> collecting and testing an upper respiratory specimen. The following are acceptable specimens:

- A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider
- An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider
- A nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare provider or by a supervised onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab)
- An anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare provider or by onsite or home self-collection (using a flocked or spun polyester swab)
- Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare provider.

Swabs should be placed immediately into a sterile transport tube containing 2-3 mL of either viral transport medium (VTM), saline or liquid amies.<sup>1</sup>

Thermo Fisher Scientific offer a portfolio of products which includes swabs, transport tubes and media, the following products are applicable to coronavirus sample collection.

Product code	Product	Pack size	
R12548	Polyester Tipped Oropharyngeal Swab, no breakpoint	1000/pk	
R12544	Disposable Sampling Swab, 100 mm breakpoint	100/pk	
R12680	Disposable Sampling Swab, 80 mm breakpoint	100/pk	
R12681	Disposable Sampling Swab, no breakpoint	96/pk	
R12587	M4RT (3 mL) Tube	72/pk	
R12588	M4RT (3mL) Flock Swab Kit	100/pk	
R12700	M4RT (3 mL) without Beads Tube	72/pk	
R12705	M4RT (3 mL) without Beads NP Swab Kit	100/pk	
R12950	M4RT (3 mL) without Beads	50/pk	
R12951	M4RT (3 mL) No Beads Nasal Swab Kit	100/pk	
R12952	M4RT (3 mL) No Beads Nasal Swab Kit with bag	100/pk	
R064438	Saline 0.85% Solution (2.5 mL)	100/pk	
R064439	Saline 0.85% Solution (3 mL)	100/pk	

#### References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

 To discuss products further, please contact your local Microbiology sales representative or email [microbiology@thermofisher.com](mailto:microbiology@thermofisher.com) for support

For more information on guidelines, refer to **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** or local authorities.

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