



Guidance for Coronavirus (SARS-nCoV-2, COVID-19) Collection and Testing

Specimen Collection: Collect **one Nasopharyngeal swab (NP)** and place the swab in a single vial with 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM). If VTM is not available, the following Alternative Transport Media can be used:

- Alternative Transport Media:
 - 1-3 mL Liquid Amies-based Transport Media.
 - Dry swab in 1-3 mL saline (If both Viral & Amies Transport Medias are not available)
- Nasopharyngeal swab (NP): recommend flexible micro swabs.
 - **Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts.** Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing. Place the swab immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 ml of VTM. Label the specimen collection kit with NP. Please do not use foam tipped swabs or swabs placed in culture media.
- Transport Requirements:
 - Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and ship with a cold pack.

Specimen Labelling: Label each specimen with **two patient identifiers** (name & date of birth) AND indicate the type of specimen (NP). *If your specimen is not properly labeled, it may be rejected.*

Test Request Forms: Complete a **COVID-19 Test Requisition Form**.

- COVID-19 Test Requisition Form:
 - All information is required
 - If your facility doesn't have a submitter ID, one will be assigned at the PHL
 - Must have the submitting facility's name and **correct phone and fax number for results** (contact QA for form or questions, the form is also available on the [ADH website](#)).
 - Requestor must be a licensed medical practitioner (i.e. physician, nurse practitioner, etc.)
- Ensure the **Patient Name** and **Date of Birth** on form are correct and match the specimen tube.
- Complete form and place in the box with the specimens. Do not place the paperwork inside the bag with the specimens.

Specimen Shipping: Ship as Category B Specimen with test requisition form to the AR-PHL.

Arkansas Dept. of Health-Public Health Laboratory
ATTN: Molecular
201 South Monroe Street, Little Rock, AR 72205

OR

Package as a category B specimen and bring to the nearest local health unit for shipment or AR-PHL Specimen Receiving located at the back of the building (off of Palm Street). Write **ATTN: Molecular** on the outside of the box and your facilities mailing information if you would like your shipping container to be returned. **LHUs cannot accept unpackaged specimens.**

Turnaround Time: maximum of 7 days, expect results within **48-72 hours**.

- The AR-PHL will notify the submitter of nCoV-2019 results by phone/email and the physical results will be released by ADH Outbreak Response/Epidemiology.

NOTE: Information is updated as requirements change, for questions and to verify the most current information contact:

AR-PHL: QA Office

- Angelica Chavez: 501-351-8202
- Genie Davis: 501-626-0431
- Kate Loyd: 501-350-8088