

SARS-CoV-2 Testing

Testing of patients suspected of acute respiratory illness attributed to SARS-CoV-2 (formerly known as novel coronavirus or nCoV-2019) continues to be strictly limited, after consultation with CDHB Microbiologist on call (via 03 364 0640).

Acceptable Specimens: ENSURE CDHB MICROBIOLOGIST CONSULTED BEFORE COLLECTION

There is limited published data around the most effective sample type; until further evidence is available **two swab types are required**. It is important that the recommended PPE guidelines are adhered to during sample collection, see accompanying one page document for advice on PPE.

One Nasopharyngeal Swab collected and immediately placed in UTM (universal transport medium). These are provided as a kit and instructions for collection can be found on HealthPathways.

Nasopharyngeal swab in Viral Transport Media



For replacement nasopharyngeal kits contact labinfo@cdhb.health.nz or call 364 0484. Holding too many kits on site results in wastage of precious resources, as UTM expires. Laboratories are liaising closely with Community and Public Health to ensure we best utilise and distribute kits.

One Oropharyngeal Swab (green top – ensure this is a virus transport swab with the foam-like insert, not a bacterial swab) collected and immediately placed back within the swab barrel.



Ensure all specimens and request forms are appropriately labelled and send via your usual collection service. Request form must include clinical and travel history.

For any enquiries please contact:

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