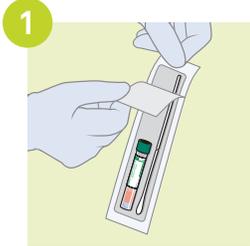


Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection

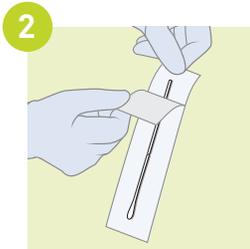
COVID-19 Testing with SARS-CoV-2-RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR



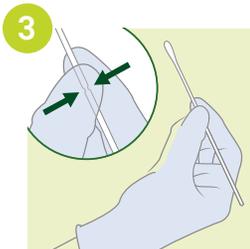
The test has not been FDA cleared or approved or authorized. The test has been validated according to CLIA, but the FDA's independent review of this validation is pending.



1 **Open the individual collection package** that contains the swab and Viral Transport Medium tube. Set the tube aside before beginning to collect the specimen.



2 Open the collection swab wrapper by peeling open the top of the wrapper.
Remove the swab, taking care not to touch the tip of the swab or lay it down.



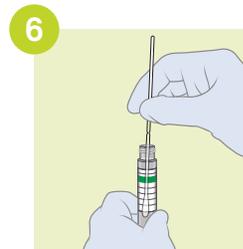
3 **Hold the swab in your hand**, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft across the scoreline.



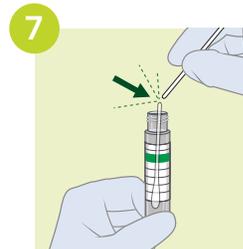
4 **Gently insert the swab** into the nostril. Keep the swab near the septum floor of the nose while gently pushing the swab into the post nasopharynx.



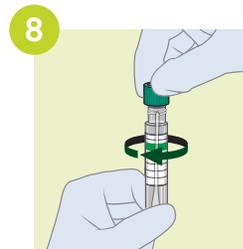
5 As a visual reference, the swab should be inserted about half the distance from the opening of the patient's nostril and the ear.
Rotate the swab several times.



6 While holding the swab in the same hand, aseptically remove the cap from the tube.
Insert the swab into the tube with the transport medium.



7 Identifying the scoreline, **break the swab shaft** against the side of the tube. If needed, gently rotate the swab shaft to complete the breakage.
Discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
Avoid splashing contents on the skin. Wash with soap and water if exposed.



8 **Replace the cap** onto the tube and close tightly.
Samples should be shipped frozen (preferred). However, samples can be shipped refrigerated at 2 °C–8 °C, and are stable at this temperature for 72 hours. Cold packs/pouches must be used if placing specimens in a lockbox for courier pick-up. Specimens should be shipped overnight to your local Quest Diagnostics accessioning laboratory according to standard operating procedures. SARS-CoV-2 RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR test is not a STAT test and STAT pick-up cannot be ordered.

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