

10X Essentials

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Geisinger

Diagnostic Medicine Institute

New information about COVID-2019

According to the PA Dept. of Health (PADOH) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), patients must meet specific criteria to be considered for COVID-2019 testing. To submit testing for COVID-2019, key clinical and epidemiology requirements must be met.



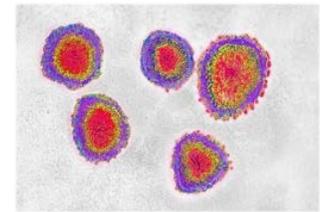
Clinical Requirements = FEVER AND/OR SYMPTOMS of Lower Respiratory (LRT) Disease (e.g., shortness of breath, cough), whether hospitalization is required or not.

Epidemiology Requirements = **Within 14 days of symptom onset**, 1) A person (including healthcare workers) who had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-2019 case; or 2) travel from China's Hubei Province or mainland China.

Submitting Specimens for 2019-novel coronavirus testing (COVID-2019)

If your patient meets the criteria listed above, Order tests, document patient data, and collect specimens.

1. Complete the Patient Under Investigation (PUI) Form*
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf>
2. Collect samples
 - a) Two nasopharyngeal swabs
 - b) Sputum or similar LRT specimen
 - c) serum for serology
 - d) stool, if possible
3. Transport all samples at refrigerated temperature (2-8 ° C) in a single biohazard bag labeled "COVID-2019"



Order the PADOH testing for COVID-2019

Order an Epic Misc. Test and write in "COVID-2019 testing." PADOH testing incurs no charge to patients. The result turnaround time will vary. The results will be scanned into Epic.

Order traditional testing: Based on DOH guidance, Laboratory Medicine is recommending Geisinger's current respiratory virus testing be performed: To assess for routine viral pathogens, order the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPPCR). Submit sample(s) to Geisinger Laboratory Medicine. The routine RPPCR testing may be discontinued if/when the COVID-19 pandemic occurs in our region.

Current DMI testing does not detect COVID-2019. DMI will perform RPPCR to identify "regular" coronaviruses, which include strains 229E, HKU1, NL63, and OC43. Tests are billable. Typically, results file to Epic in < 8 hrs. DMI will launch the COVID-2019 assay in Spring 2020 with an Epic orderable test called 2019-nCoV RT-PCR.

Refer to the Flowchart on page 2 for a User's Guide to Test submission. This information is subject to change as details related to the outbreak change.

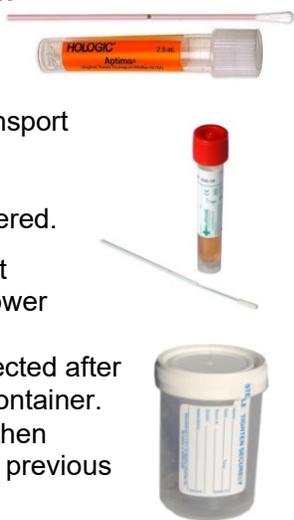
For questions, please contact our Analytical Specialists.

Fran Tomashefski, B.S. MT(ASCP) @ 570- 271-6185 or Barb Heiter, B.S., MT(ASCP) @ 570-271-4294.

Collecting samples for COVID-2019

Follow “COVID-19 Screening and Evaluation” Guidelines for PPE and Isolation Protocols

	Symptomatic	Asymptomatic
Indications for testing	<p>Fever >100.4°F Cough Shortness of Breath Chills Headache Muscle pain/Myalgia Sore throat</p> <p>New loss of taste or smell Tiredness/Malaise Diarrhea Dizziness</p> <p>*PUI form is required for symptomatic patients</p>	<p>Surveillance Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident cohorting • Pre-surgical/procedure • Treatments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dialysis ○ Chemotherapy • Hospital discharge
Collection Instructions	<p>1. Collect one nasal mid-turbinate swab in the Hologic Aptima® Multitest® Collection Kit. Orange label tube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ADD ON testing possible. <p>OR....For facilities with UTM- Collect one NP or Nasal Turbinate swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM). Red cap tube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimen can be shared to perform Respiratory Pathogen Panel test, if ordered. <p>2. If specimen is NEGATIVE for COVID-19, but clinical suspicion is HIGH, then collect a lower respiratory tract (LRT) sample, if possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expecterated/deep cough sputum, collected after mouth is rinsed with water in a sterile container. • If LRT is not possible (i.e., dry cough), then repeat NP is acceptable after 72 hrs. of previous result. <p>3. If COVID-19 NEGATIVE and patient is exhibiting respiratory symptoms, then order Respiratory Pathogen Panel.</p> <p>4. Transport samples at refrigerated temp. (2–8 °C) in double biohazard bag to your local laboratory.</p>	<p>1. Collect one nasal mid-turbinate swab in the Hologic Aptima® Multitest® Collection Kit. Orange label tube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimen will NOT be shared to perform Respiratory Pathogen Panel if ordered together. • See next page for collection instructions. <p>2. Transport samples at room temperature in double biohazard bag to your local laboratory.</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Do not submit nasal or nares specimens. Nasal Turbinate collections are required.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Geisinger coronavirus hotline 570-284-3657 Option 4 for laboratory-specific questions. GeisingerMedicalLabs.com.MicroApp/index.shtml</p> </div>



Geisinger Laboratory Medicine Alert

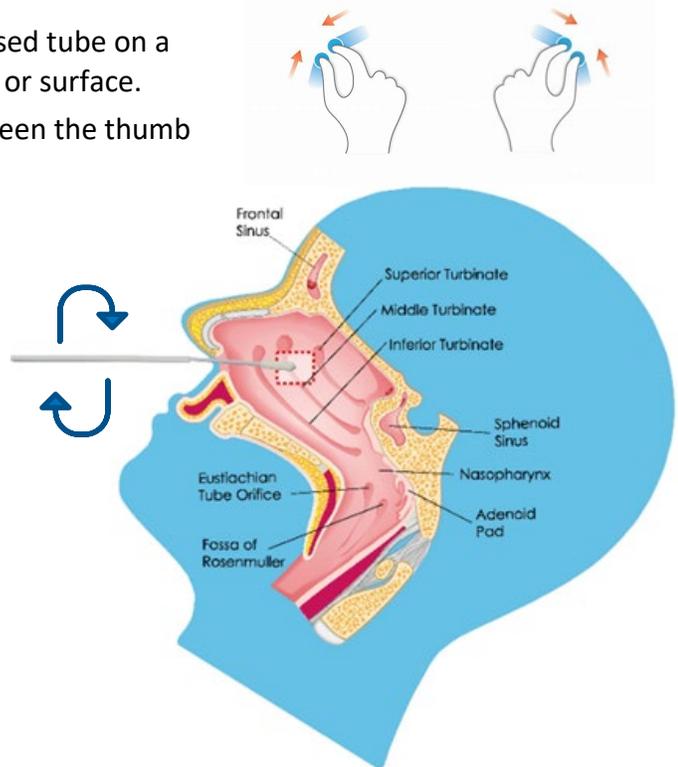
New COVID-19 Specimen: Nasal Mid-turbinate

Nasal Turbinate is a new specimen source option in Epic. Nasal turbinate collections are less invasive than nasopharyngeal (NP) collections for the patient and are safer for the collector as they do not cause the patient to cough or gag during the collection. Internal data demonstrated that nasal turbinate collections performed similarly to the NP for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory pathogens.

Nasal-Turbinate Sample Collection Instructions for Healthcare Workers (trained and competent)

Personal protective equipment is worn by HCW (gown, surgical mask or respirator, eye protection, and gloves); Biohazard bags and Collection kits are required.

- Remove the swab from the sealed packet, place the closed tube on a clean surface. Do NOT set the swab down on a counter or surface.
- Hold the swab away from you and pinch the swab between the thumb and first finger of your dominant hand.
- Using a swirling motion, gently place the swab into the nose, until a slight resistance is met in the nasal cavity, this is when you know you've reached the nasal turbinate (approximately near the bridge of the nose). *Do not attempt to push the swab further and do not move further if an obstruction is present before the turbinate.*
- Press the swab against the turbinate (nasal cavity wall), and gently rotate the swab in place five times for a total of 5 seconds, then gently remove the swab. Do not allow the swab to touch any other surface.
- Still holding the swab away from you, pick up the Collection Tube with your non-dominant hand. Firmly wrap the 5th finger of the hand holding the swab around the cap of the tube. Rotate the tube to unscrew the tube from the cap and immediately place the swab inside the open tube.
- Snap the swab at the scored breakpoint and place the cap back onto the tube. Discard the remnant in a biohazard bag or container, then firmly screw the cap back on to the tube.
- Transport the sample in a double biohazard bag to your local laboratory.



Contact Laboratory Medicine Client Services with questions:
570-271-6326 or 800-695-6491