

Specimen Collection and Transport for SARS-CoV-2 Aptima

Oropharyngeal Swab Specimens

(Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit or Viral Transport Medium)

1. Insert Aptima Multitest swab into throat ensuring contact with bilateral tonsils and posterior pharyngeal wall and then withdraw.
2. Unscrew cap from Aptima Multitest transport tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft at the score line, and tightly screw cap onto tube.
3. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.*

Nasal Swab Specimens

(Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit or Viral Transport Medium)

1. Insert Aptima Multitest swab into nostril until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril). Rotate swab a few times against the nasal wall and remove. Using the same swab, repeat in the other nostril.
2. Unscrew cap from Aptima Multitest transport tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft at the score line, and tightly screw cap onto tube.
3. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.*

Nasopharyngeal Swab Specimens

(Viral Transport Medium or Aptima Transport Medium)

1. Use swab with polyester, rayon, or nylon tip and flexible shaft to collect a nasopharyngeal specimen (use swab with 80mm score line for Aptima Transport Medium).
2. Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate until it reaches the nasopharynx, leave in place for several seconds, then slowly rotate the swab as it is being withdrawn.
3. Unscrew cap from tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft so it fits in the tube, and tightly screw cap onto tube.
4. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.*

*Specimens in Aptima Transport Medium can be stored in the refrigerator or at room temperature for up to 6 days before testing. Specimens in Viral Transport Medium can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 96 hours before testing.