

# COVID-19 Collection and Shipping for Bulk Testing to the KY Division of Laboratory Services

## Collection of Specimen

Check expiration date of all kit components before collecting sample.

Collect appropriate sample for type of swab received.

**Nasopharyngeal Swab:** A minitip swab is inserted into one or both nostrils to the NP area and pressed against the nasal wall. Allow a moment to absorb secretions. Rotate the swab 2 or 3 times and withdraw. Place in transport medium. Break off shaft and cap tube.

**Nasal mid-turbinate swab:** Tilt patients head back 70 degrees. While gently rotating the swab, insert swab less than one inch (about 2 cm) into nostril (until resistance is met at turbinates). Rotate the swab several times against nasal wall and repeat in other nostril using the same swab. Place swab in transport medium. Break off shaft and cap tube.

**Anterior nares specimen:** Using a flocked or spun polyester swab, insert the swab at least 1 cm (0.5 inch) inside the nostril (naris) and firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab and leaving in place for 10 to 15 seconds. Sample both nostrils with same swab. Place swab in transport medium. Break off shaft and cap tube.

**Oropharyngeal Swab:** Insert swab into pharynx and tonsillar areas. Rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx. Place swab in transport medium. Break off shaft and cap tube.

\*Reference for collection of specimen <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

## Storage and Shipment Temperatures

Before collection store media at 2°-25°C  
Store refrigerated until shipping 2°-8°C  
Ship at 2°-8°C

## Packaging and Shipping

1. Collect sample and break off swab into transport media.
2. Place sample tube into tube shuttle.
3. Place one tube shuttle with six sample tubes inside 95kPa bag.
4. Put requisitions for the six sample tubes inside the pouch on the 95kPa bag.
5. Place frozen ice pack in bottom of cooler. Place specimen bags in cooler. Secure specimen bags with suitable cushioning material. Replace Styrofoam lid.
6. Seal box and place FedEx label on top. Do not use excessive tape.
7. Responsible person's name and phone number along with UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B must be on outside of box.



If you need access to FedEx for sending COVID specimens, please contact us at 502-782-7703.

Refer to 49CFR 173.199 for current regulations on packaging and shipping of Category B infectious substances