

## COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Handling for Testing at SHC

**Note: This guidance covers testing performed at the SHC Virology Lab for COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2) for Stanford Health Care**

Below are interim recommendations from Infection Prevention for testing.

**Recommendations will be updated as needed.**

### COVID-19 testing will be considered for:

Symptomatic patients or healthcare workers with or without known COVID-19 exposure:

- with influenza-like illness
- OR fever (subjective or  $T \geq 100$ )
- OR sore throat
- OR cough
- OR shortness of breath
- AND physician judgement

Physicians should have a low threshold to test **symptomatic** patients or healthcare workers:

- who have had direct contact with a COVID-19 positive patient
- OR who have returned from index countries within 14 days of symptom onset (index countries: China, South Korea, Iran, Italy or Japan)

For patients or healthcare workers being tested in the outpatient setting or occupational health and **not requiring hospitalization**: Order COVID-19 PCR. *The respiratory viral panel or rapid flu/RSV PCR can be ordered at the physician's discretion.*

For patients **being admitted** to the hospital: Order the respiratory viral panel AND COVID-19 PCR

### Guidelines for COVID-19 testing of inpatients admitted with diagnoses other than acute respiratory illness

- For patients hospitalized for two weeks or less and who have fever and/or lower respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, infiltrates or respiratory failure and no alternative explanation, testing for COVID-19 is reasonable.
- For patients hospitalized for more than two weeks prior to the onset of fever and/or respiratory symptoms testing for COVID-19 is not indicated and should not be done unless the patient has been exposed to a known COVID-19 positive individual during the current hospitalization.
- For uncertainty about testing, consider ID consult

# COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Handling for Testing at SHC

## IMPORTANT:

- **LABEL ALL SPECIMENS** collected from Patients Under Investigation (PUI) with a neon green "COVID-19 PUI" sticker, regardless of test ordered (e.g. CBC, type & screen).
- **Each specimen must be placed in a separate biohazard bag.**
- **DO NOT** use the P-Tube for transport.

**ALL SPECIMENS FOR PUI →**

**COVID-19 PUI**

## Collection Instructions for COVID-19 Testing

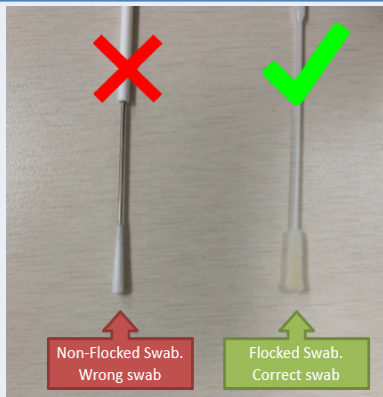
**Sample Type and Source – transport all specimens at 2-8°C.**

**Preferred:** Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in individual Viral Transport Media (VTM) or Universal (UTM).

**Acceptable:** Oropharyngeal (OP) swab if ordered with an NP swab (Place both swabs in single tube)

**Acceptable:** 1 mL Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) fluid. Submit in a sterile container.

### Swab Collection Information



- **Only one swab is needed for both tests, RESPCR2 + SARSCOV2.**

- Use only flocced swab.
- Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.
- Place swab immediately into tube containing 2-3 ml of viral or universal transport media. Affix specimen label to tube.

## How to Order COVID-19 Testing in EPIC:

Location	Order Set Name	Single Order/Add-on
500P/300P ED	<b>SHC ED COVID-19 Panel</b> Order set includes: RESPCR2 + SARSCOV2	<b>LABSARSCOV2</b>
SHC Inpatient/ITA	<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus (SARS COV-2), RT-PCR Panel</b> Order set includes: RESPCR2 + SARSCOV2	<b>LABSARSCOV2</b>
Ambulatory	<b>SHC AMB COVID-19 Labs</b> Order set includes: RESPCR2 + SARSCOV2	<b>LABSARSCOV2</b>

## Transport to the Laboratory - DO NOT use the P-Tube

- Deliver samples STAT to the Laboratory (F17 at 300P) by Courier **immediately**.
- See Infection Control Pandemic policy for further guidance (PPE requirements for aerosolizing procedures, etc.) at <https://stanfordhealthcare.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=4158>