

Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 2019 Diagnostic

Orderable – COVID

Turnaround Time: 24hrs

Further reading: [COVID-19 TESTING POLICY AND GUIDELINES](#)

Specimen Type and Collection Information:

For symptomatic individuals and/or those with known exposure to a COVID-19 case.

Specimen Type	Collection Information
Nasopharyngeal Swab	Insert flexible, fine-shafted swab into nasopharynx, rotate in circular manner to collect cellular material. Place swab in viral transport media.
Tracheal Aspirate	Aspirate sample into a trap. Transfer to a sterile container.
Expectorated sputum	Have the patient rinse the mouth with water and then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into a sterile container. Do NOT induce sputum.
Bronchial Alveolar Lavage (BAL)	Collect a minimum volume of 1 mL of BAL. Transfer sample to a sterile container.

Refer to Public Health Ontario Laboratory Test Information Index – [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) – PCR](#) for other specimen types.

Special Processing:

As of November 12th 2021, Variants of Concern (VOC) screening of positive SARS-CoV-2 specimen have been discontinued. Surveillance will continue to be done by whole genome sequencing by the Provincial Laboratory Network.

Individual whole genome sequencing investigation is indicated in the following cases:

1. International travel
2. Vaccinated individuals with confirmed infection >14 days after receipt of second vaccine dose
3. Outbreak or suspected super spreader event (maximum of 2 specimens per outbreak/event)

Please Contact the Microbiologist On-Call (pager 19000) in any of the above scenarios.

Storage and Shipment:-

Specimen must be received within 24 hours and should be stored at 4°C as soon as possible following collection. If the transport time exceeds 24 hours, the specimen will only be tested if appropriate.



Laboratory:
Microbiology



Requisition:
Electronic order



Method of Analysis:
Polymerase Chain
Reaction (PCR)



Test Schedule:
Daily
Referred to Public Health
Ontario Laboratory if not
tested in house