Orderable – COVIDSCR
Turnaround Time: 24hrs

Specimen Type and Collection Information:
For asymptomatic individuals without known exposure to a COVID-19 case.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Collection Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nasopharyngeal Swab</td>
<td>Insert flexible, fine-shafted swab into nasopharynx, rotate in circular manner to collect cellular material. Place swab in viral transport media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal/Mid-Turbinate (Deep Nasal) Swab</td>
<td>Insert swab 3–4 cm into EACH nostril, rotate in a circular manner for 3 seconds. Place swab in viral transport media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throat Swab</td>
<td>Insert swab in posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas. Rub swab over posterior pharynx and bilateral tonsillar pillars; avoid tongue, teeth and gums. Place swab in viral transport media.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.