



TITLE	Specimen Collection for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing
TODAY'S DATE	April 8, 2020
SECTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization Wide <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Department <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Medical staff [physicians and advance care practitioners]

APPLICABLE LOCATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> All Bozeman Health locations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Big Sky Medical Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belgrade Clinic + UrgentCare <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Senior Living <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b2 UrgentCare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b2 MicroCare
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VERSION DATE	April 8, 2020
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APPROVAL DATE	April 8, 2020

PURPOSE: The FDA has approved the use of self-collected nasal swabs (NS) for COVID-19 testing. Using a round foam swab, the patient can collect the nasal swab themselves, under supervision from a healthcare worker. Using the nasal swab has the following benefits:

- More comfortable process for the patient
- Allows self-collection of samples at testing sites
- Can be performed with simpler, more readily available swab
- Decrease risk of transmission/contamination of healthcare personnel
- Conserves PPE, specifically N95s
- Is not an aerosolizing procedure

The nasal swab is NOT an appropriate specimen for Influenza or Viral Respiratory Panel (VRP) testing. Due to decreased influenza incidence in our community, ambulatory patients only need COVID testing. VRPs are still appropriate for inpatients prior to COVID testing. Influenza PCR and/or VRP may still be appropriate for ED patients not being admitted, use clinician judgement.

POLICY/PROTOCOL:

Procedure for Nasal Swab Collection for SARS-CoV-2 Testing:

Procedure	Notes
Is the patient ≥13 years of age AND comfortable with the self-collection procedure.	Patients <13 years of age OR who are uncomfortable with the self-collection procedure should be referred to a site that offers HCW collection.
Provider order "SARS-CoV-2 by PCR"	Flu testing is no longer indicated for outpatients, as the incidence is very low in our community. If admitting the patient, the Viral Respiratory Panel is reasonable to consider ordering. NP Swab is needed for



COVID-19 RESPONSE POLICY/PROTOCOL

	<p>the VRP. Do NOT proceed with NS collection if ordering Viral Respiratory Panel.</p> <p>Follow the Testing Guidelines to determine which patients are appropriate for testing.</p> <p>If the patient is a healthcare worker or public safety officer, note that in comments of the order so lab will route the specimen for quicker turnaround time.</p>
HCW supervises collection of nasal swab	The NS collection can be done in a private exam room with the door closed. There is no need for negative airflow.
Healthcare personnel supervising specimen collection wear a procedural mask and eye protection.	Make sure you stand ≥ 6 feet away from patient the majority of the time.
<p>Give patient the specimen collection kit (Nasal swab, viral transport media, and biohazard specimen bag)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Label the vial appropriately 	<p>Supplies will be provided by the lab.</p> <p>If the patient is a healthcare worker or other public safety officer, note that on the form sent from testing site.</p>
<p>Instruct patient on collection of swab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insert swab into nostril - Rotate against nasal wall few times - Repeat in other nostril using the same swab - Put tip of swab into vial containing transport media. - Put vial into biohazard bag. Seal bag. 	Healthcare personnel should stand 6 feet way wearing mask and eye protection while supervising swab collection done by patient.
Healthcare personnel accept sealed specimen bag from patient.	The specimen is then placed into a second specimen bag
Store specimen refrigerated for transport to lab.	These can be placed in a Styrofoam box with cooling packs.

NOTES:

OTHER POLICIES/PROTOCOLS TO REFERENCE: