



Appendix C – COVID-19 Swab Collection

When undertaking point of care swabs in KAMS clinics- please first review the Kirby Standard Operating Procedures ([Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection SOP2](#)). This advice should be followed with priority to the below collection process.

Two swab collection methods are available:

1. [Oropharyngeal \(throat\) and Nasopharyngeal](#), or
2. [Oropharyngeal \(throat\) and Bilateral Deep Nasal/Mid-turbinate](#)

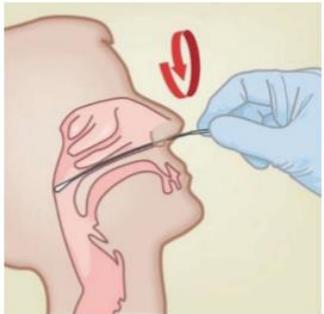
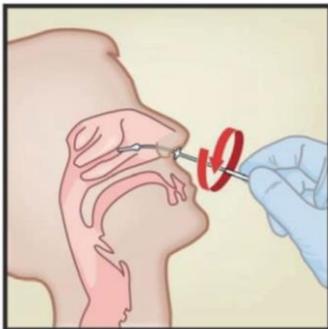
Swab Collection Procedure

Below process adapted from PathWest advice:

1. Perform hand hygiene before donning PPE.
2. Remove the flexible shaft swab from its packaging.
3. Stand slightly to the side of the patient to avoid exposure to respiratory secretions, should the patient cough or sneeze.
4. **Oropharyngeal (throat) swab:** Always collect BEFORE a nasopharyngeal OR deep nasal/mid-turbinate swab. Swab the posterior pharynx and tonsillar beds, while avoiding the tongue. Use the same swab for the nasopharyngeal or deep nasal/mid-turbinate swab.
5. Complete ONE of the following:
 - i. **Nasopharyngeal swab:** Tilt the patient’s head back. Gently insert the flexible shaft nasopharyngeal swab into one nostril, then gently insert it along the floor of the nasal cavity parallel to the palate until resistance is encountered. This is approximately half to two-thirds of the distance between the anterior nares and the ear. Rotate gently for 10-15 seconds, then withdraw, and repeat the process in the other nostril with the same swab, to absorb secretions.

OR

 - ii. **Bilateral deep nasal/mid-turbinate swab:** using a pencil grip and while gently rotating the swab, insert the tip 2-3cm for adults and 1-2cm for children (or until resistance is met), into the nostril, parallel to the palate, to absorb mucoid secretion. Rotate the swab several times against the nasal wall. Withdraw the swab and repeat the process in the other nostril.
6. Place the swab into the molecular transport media/universal transport media (MTM/UTM) container, flocked end first, and snap the shaft at the indicated snapping point, using the rim of the MTM/UTM tube for leverage if required.
7. Close the MTM/UTM container with the flocked end of the swab inside, discarding the remainder of the shaft.
8. Ensure that the MTM/UTM container is closed correctly and is not leaking – the swab is usually slightly bent within the tube.

Figure 1: Flocked swab with UTM	Figure 2: Collection of nasopharyngeal sample	Figure 4: Collection of Deep Nasal/Mid-turbinate sample
		

<p>Transport media type</p>	<p>Copan universal transport media (UTM) - preferred *Use this for swabs being analysed through Broome</p>	<p>PrimeStore molecular transport media (MTM) – *does not work on Broome PCR reader at Path West Broome</p>
		
<p>Shelf Life</p>	<p>12 months</p>	<p>24 months</p>
<p>Capped tubes containing the nasopharyngeal swabs can be stored the following ways prior to testing</p>	<p>Room temp (15-30°C) for up to 8 hours or refrigerate (2-8°C) up to seven days before testing. Must not be frozen.</p>	<p>Room temperature (< 26°C) for up to 7 days or refrigerated (2-8°C) for up to 28 days before testing. Must not be frozen.</p>

Refer to the [YouTube video](#) below for demonstration.

For any spills of the transport media, please refer to the [COVID-19 POCT Infection Control Procedures SOP](#)