

SPECIMEN SUPPLIES

1. Universal Transport Media (UTM)

- Has a light orange color
- UTM has a long term shelf life at room temperature



2. Nasopharyngeal (NP) Flocked Swabs

- NP 'flocked swabs' are preferred specimens for respiratory virus detection



NOTE:

In patients with a tracheostomy, laryngectomy, etc., a tracheal aspirate may be collected and submitted in UTM, but NP specimen should also be collected.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- Standard Operating Procedure available at: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-sop-swab.pdf>
- Specimens are best if collected **within the first 48-72 hours of symptom onset** when the amount of virus is greatest.
- Specimens should be sent as soon as possible to your facility laboratory for further transport to CPL.
- Once specimens are collected, they will be placed in the refrigerator and transported as soon as possible with a cold pack (4°C is the desired storage and transport temperature recommended by CPL)
- Specimens that leak, are damaged, or lack appropriate identification (two unique identifiers such as name and PHIN) will not be processed

TIPS TO REDUCE LEAKING

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/wp-content/uploads/covid-19-tips-to-reduce-leaking-specimens.pdf>

REQUISITION

- Complete a requisition form for each test request.
- Clearly label the requisition form with the following details: Patient identifiers, address, date and time of collection, what tests are required, and if in an outbreak an Outbreak Code as provided by IP&C.
- If in an outbreak, refer to the [Outbreak Cadham Lab Requisition sample](#)

Further info can be found in the Cadham Provincial Laboratory Guide to Services. Available at: [Guide to Services 2020 \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)