

REMINDER

PDL COVID-19 Collection Site Closure for Goleta and Santa Ynez

January 3, 2022

**GOLETA AND SANTA YNEZ
COVID-19 COLLECTION SITES
NOW CLOSED**

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) is no longer offering collection services for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) at the Goleta and Santa Ynez COVID-19 Collection site locations.

Please note: This is a change to the collection services only. PDL continues to offer COVID-19 testing.

To assist with this change, we are providing COVID-19 collection guides for the testing PDL continues to offer.

- PDL Collection Guide: [COVID-19 Nasal Observed Collection](#)
- PDL Collection Guide: [COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Collection](#)
- PDL Collection Guide: [COVID-19 Saliva Observed Collection](#)

These guides are also available on the PDL website on the Provider Resources page under Guides & Forms: <https://www.pdllabs.com/provider-resources/notifications-guides-and-forms/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why have the Goleta and Santa Ynez COVID-19 Collection sites closed?

Closure on December 31, 2022 was deemed necessary after a critical assessment of current and predicted staffing, client demand, and other community options.

What collection options are available for PDL COVID-19 testing?

For asymptomatic testing: For scenarios such as pre-procedure testing or surveillance testing, the provider office can perform the collection or do an observed self-collection. The specimen can then be submitted to PDL for testing.

For symptomatic testing: The provider office can perform the collection if appropriate (aerosolization and PPE considerations should be taken). The specimen can then be submitted to PDL for testing. Alternatively, the symptomatic patient can be directed to Urgent Care services or to perform a home test.

What collection kit do I use if to collect in the office?

COVID-19 (NAA) LAB10789 or COVID-19 PCR (NAA) LAB10960

Nasopharyngeal	UTM/VTM with NP swab	Healthcare provider (HCP) collects
Nasal	UTM/VTM with Nasal swab	HCP collects OR HCP observes patient self-collect

COVID-19 SALIVA (NAA) LAB10941

Saliva	COVID-19 Saliva Collection kit	HCP observes patient self-collect
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Do the PDL Patient Service Centers (PSC) offer COVID-19 collections?

No. The PDL PSC sites do not offer this service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100

NASAL SWAB FOR COVID-19: HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OBSERVED SELF-COLLECTION

The FDA recommends health care providers provide visual (written or video) step-by-step instructions, in addition to verbal instructions, to patients who, in a health care setting, are self-collecting anterior nares (nasal) samples for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Written instructions may be provided on paper or electronically.

The instructions provided to patients should incorporate the following information:

- The entire tip of the swab (usually ½ to ¾ of an inch) should be placed inside the nose, and the side of the swab tip should be rubbed with moderate pressure against as much of the wall of the anterior nares region as possible, moving the tip through a large circular path inside the nose.
- At least four of these sweeping circles should be performed in each nostril using the same swab. This should take approximately 10-15 seconds per nostril.
- Simply twirling the swab against one part of the inside of the nose or leaving the swab in the nose for 10-15 seconds, is not proper technique and may result in an insufficient sample.

Two examples of written instructions are available from:

- Audere's HealthPulse*: [Nasal Swab Instructions | HealthPulse \(healthpulsenow.org\)](https://www.audere.org/healthpulse/nasal-swab-instructions)
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/How-To-Collect-Anterior-Nasal-Specimen-for-COVID-19.pdf>

**Audere, a Washington State nonprofit corporation, has granted a general right of reference to any organization who wishes to access and use these instructions for lower nasal swabs administered at a testing site. These recommendations apply specifically to patients who are self-collecting in a health care setting.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does the collection need to be observed by a Healthcare provider?

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the COVID-19 test that PDL performs requires the COVID-19 collection to either be performed by a healthcare provider or observed by a healthcare provider. This ensures that the collection is adequate for testing and reduces the risk of false negative test results.

What personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn by the observer?

The observer should adhere to Center for Disease control guidance and infection control practices for PPE.

Per CDC: For healthcare providers who are handling specimens, but are not directly involved in collection (e.g. handling self-collected specimens) and not working within 6 feet of the patient, follow Standard Precautions. Healthcare providers should wear a form of source control (face mask) at all times while in the healthcare facility.

Healthcare providers can minimize PPE use if patients collect their own specimens while maintaining at least 6 feet of separation. For example, the provider should wear a face mask, gloves, and a gown.

How to Collect an Anterior Nasal Swab Specimen for COVID-19 Testing



Use **only** an authorized specimen collection kit given to you by your healthcare provider or personnel at the testing center, or purchased over the counter in a pharmacy or other store. Follow the instructions included with the specimen collection kit which may be used on-site or at home. Use **only** materials provided in the kit to collect and store or mail the specimen, unless the kit says to do otherwise. These instructions can also be used with self-testing kits if the kit specifies anterior nasal swab collection.

Set-up

1. Disinfect the surface where you will open the collection kit. Remove and lay out contents of kit. Read instructions before starting specimen collection.

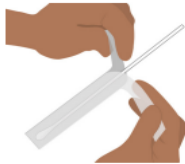


2. Wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.



Specimen collection

3. Remove the swab from the package. Do not touch the soft end with your hands or anything else.



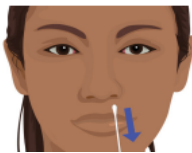
4. Insert the entire soft end of the swab into your nostril **no more than 3/4 of an inch** (1.5 cm) into your nose.



5. Slowly rotate the swab, gently pressing against the inside of your nostril at least 4 times for a total of 15 seconds. Get as much nasal discharge as possible on the soft end of the swab.



6. Gently remove the swab.



7. Using the same swab, repeat steps 4–6 in your other nostril with the same end of the swab.

Preparation of specimen for return

8. Place the swab in the sterile tube and snap off the end of the swab at the break line, so that it fits comfortably in the tube. Place the cap on the tube and screw down tightly to prevent leakage.



9. Wash hands or re-apply hand sanitizer.



10. Place the tube containing the swab in the biohazard bag provided and seal the bag.



Returning the specimen and clean-up

11. Give the bag with the swab to testing personnel or follow the instructions for returning the specimen for testing.



12. Throw away the remaining specimen collection kit items.



13. Wash hands or re-apply hand sanitizer.



NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB FOR COVID-19: HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COLLECTION

MATERIALS NEEDED

Swab: DO NOT USE wood-shafted or calcium alginate swabs.

- Flocked tipped nasopharyngeal (NP) swab with nylon fiber on a plastic or wire shaft (mini-tip swab)

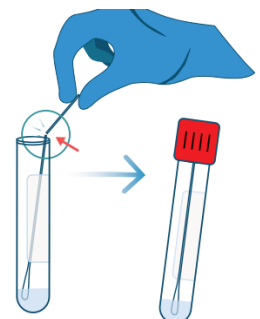
Transport Media:

- Universal Transport Media (UTM) is preferred
- Alternatives if UTM not available:
 - Viral Transport Media (VTM)
 - Saline (0.9%) Vial or eSwab (*least preferred*)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR NASPHARYNGEAL COLLECTION

1. To be performed by a healthcare professional whose certification covers NP collection.
2. Assemble supplies. Take all infection prevention steps in accordance to CDC.
3. Open the collection kit and remove the swab, taking care not to touch the tip to any surface or lay it down.
4. Collecting the specimen:
 - If the patient has a lot of mucus in the nose, have the patient use a tissue to gently clean the nasal passage before a swab is taken.
 - Position head slightly back. Gently insert mini-tip swab with a flexible shaft (plastic or wire) into the nostril keeping it parallel to the palate (not upwards) until the posterior nasopharynx is reached (the distance from nostrils to external opening of ear).
 - Gently rub and roll the swab. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the mini-tip is saturated with fluid from the first collection.
5. Place NP swab into the transport medium vial and break (snap) off at the break point line. Replace the vial cap and screw on security. Label sample and place in biohazard bag. Include the lab order in the outer pocket of the bag. Refrigerate specimen for transport.



CDC Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html#collecting>
[Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Steps \(cdc.gov\)](#)

SALIVA COLLECTION FOR COVID-19: REQUIRED OBSERVATION BY A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL



DO NOT EAT, DRINK, SMOKE, CHEW GUM or BRUSH TEETH 30 MINUTES SALIVA COLLECTION. NO DENTAL WORK OR EXAMINATION PERFORMED PRIOR TO SALIVA COLLECTION.



BEFORE 24 HOURS

Collection kit contains: Sterile 10 mL conical tube, funnel, biohazard bag & instructions

1	Wash/Sanitize hands.	
2	Remove the tube and funnel from collection kit. Unscrew tube cap and set aside (do not discard). Hold tube upright and place funnel on top o tube.	
3	Spit a minimum of 1 mL of saliva into the funnel. Fill tube to the line indicated on the tube label (approx. ¼ teaspoon).	
4	Discard funnel. Screw cap back on tube; tighten. Wipe outside of tube. Complete label on the tube with patient information and time/date of collection.	
6	Place specimen in biohazard bag and close bag.	
7	Wash/sanitize hands.	