

Tool 11: Swab Collection & PRE-PAID Shipping Information

For residents

Specimens will be processed for influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) by nucleic acid testing first. A subset of specimens will be tested for other respiratory viruses by the Respiratory Virus Panel Luminex assay if initial influenza A/B and RSV are negative. Nasal and nasopharyngeal swabs are preferred but nasopharyngeal washes, suction and other lower respiratory tract specimens are acceptable as well.

NOTE: Please ensure all requested testing is indicated on the requisition forms. For example: If a nasopharyngeal swab collected for a client, please select COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV on the requisition forms.

Collection Kits: Nasal/Nasopharyngeal swabs must be collected using a designated **Specimen Collection Kit**. These kits (swabs containing transport medium, biohazard bags and the BCCDC Virology Requisition) are provided by the BCCDC

➔ **To order collection kits:** Refer to [Tool 9](#)

➔ **Indications for Testing: Collect specimens from all symptomatic residents and staff**

Specimen collection:

- For personal protection, it is recommended that gloves, mask, and eye protection be worn while collecting specimen.
- Patients with copious discharge should be requested to gently clean their nose by washing or with tissue.
- Incline the patient's head as required and insert the cotton swab along the base of the nasal cavity to a depth of 2-4 cm into the nostril. Swab around the inside of the nostril and along the nasal septum by rotating the swab between fingers
- Place the swab into the accompanying vial of transport media and tighten the lid securely.
- **Label** the sample container with the patient's **full name** and **date of birth**.
- It is essential that the nasal passage be swabbed sufficiently firmly to collect infected cells rich in virus. Nasopharyngeal swabs inserted along the base of the nasal cavity (6cm or deeper) are excellent but may be more traumatic to the patient. Mucous discharge and throat swabs contain less virus and are discouraged.

Completing Lab Requisitions: One BCCDC Virology **requisition** must be completed for **each specimen**. Please include **PHN** and **date of birth** on requisition

In completing the requisition:

- Under **Test(s) Requested**, select appropriate sample type(s) (e.g., Influenza, RSV and COVID-19)
- Under **ORDERING PHYSICIAN**, enter the full name and address of the physician/Care Community to whom the final report will be sent - See [Tool 10](#) sample BCCDC Virology requisition for what information to include based on type of Care Community
- Under **ADDITIONAL COPIES TO:** See [Tool 10](#) sample BCCDC Virology requisition for what information to include). If desired, enter the name, address, and MSP number of the physician.

Submission of a completed BCCDC Virology Requisition with the specimens ensures that processing and reporting of findings is given highest priority.

NOTE: Nasopharyngeal swabs are to be sent to BCCDC for testing (including swabs collected by O&O sites).

Transportation of specimens: Assemble outbreak specimens and follow Packaging of Lab specimens and transportation of specimens. Send by routine same day or overnight delivery or if not available, by courier. Outside the Lower Mainland: DHL, 1-800-CALL-DHL (1-800-225-5345); bill to Acct. M45579. Lower Mainland: TForce, 1-877-345-8801; bill to Acct.2327

Reporting & Result Timeline:

Specimens received before 12:00 Monday to Friday	Results for influenza will be available by 20:00h the same day
Specimens received after 12:00 Monday to Thursday	Will be tested the following day
Specimens received after 12:00 Friday or on Saturday	Will be tested on Sunday
Specimens received on a statutory holiday	Will be tested on the following workday as outlined above

For inquiries: Please call **Results Line at (877)-747-2522 from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday.**