

## COVID-19 Pathology collection instructions

**To maximise test sensitivity and appropriately use resources a combined throat and nasopharyngeal/deep nasal specimen should be taken.**

### Preparation:

1. Obtain dry swab (white top )
2. Put on PPE (gloves, gown, surgical mask and eye protection)

### Specimen collection:

#### Throat (posterior pharyngeal) and anterior nasal swab collection

1. Stand to one side and tilt the patient's head back slightly.
2. Ask the patient to open the mouth and say "argh"
3. Depress the tongue with a tongue depressor. Note – this procedure can induce the gag reflex.
4. With a sweeping motion, swab the posterior pharyngeal wall and tonsillar pillars. Avoid the soft palate and do not touch the tongue with the swab tip.
5. Using the same swab, insert the swab tip into the nostril as far as the anterior end of the nasal turbinate, parallel to the palate. (Approximately 2-3cm in adults).
6. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds then slowly withdraw using a rotating motion.
7. Put the swab directly into the transport tube.
8. Label the tube with patient name, collection date and source.
9. Complete request form "combined throat and nose swab for COVID-19 PCR"

