

Specimen Collection for COVID-19 testing

Materials:

- 1 viral transport medium
- 2 synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shaft (Do not use swabs with wood shaft)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Gown
- Gloves
- Mask (N95)
- Eye protection

Contact Trinity County HHSA – Public Health Branch (530-623-8209) or Trinity County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch (530-623 8126 after hours only) to consult with Public Health Duty Officer immediately upon the decision to test for COVID-19. Providers must submit a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to Trinity County HHSA – Public Health Branch on all persons being tested for COVID-19 under the category of **Novel Virus Infection with Pandemic Potential** listed in **\$2500**. CMR must be faxed to Trinity County Public Health within 24 hours.

Actions requested of all clinicians with patients suspected of having COVID-19 infection:

Collect both Throat (Oropharyngeal) Swab and Nasal (Nasopharyngeal) Swab according to the following directions:

*Note: OP and NP specimens can be placed into one viral transport medium.

Throat Swab:

- Use a sterile Viral transport swab.
- Thoroughly swab tonsillar areas and posterior nasopharynx with sterile swab.
- Place swab into viral transport medium.
- Break off excess shaft.

Nasal swab:

- Use a sterile Viral Transport swab.
- Place sterile swab into the nasopharyngeal passage approximately 2-3 cm and rotate swab 2-3 times.
- Place swab into viral transport medium.
- Break off excess shaft and cap transport medium tube.

Trinity County Public Health

Phone: 530-623-8209

Fax: 530-623-1297

Refer to CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).