



American Health Associates

COVID-19 Testing (test code L1430) Protocol

Upon receipt of a lab order for COVID19 testing on a resident who satisfies CDC clinical criteria, AHA will provide the ordering facility with a nasopharyngeal swab in universal transport media for specimen collection. (swabs will be provided on an as-available basis due to the nation-wide shortage).

With the patient's head tilted at a 70° angle, insert the swab along the septum floor of the nose extending straight back until the posterior nasopharynx is reached. Rotate the swab several times while the swab is in contact with the nasopharynx wall and mucosal surface. Once completed, place the swab into the vial transport media, then break off at the slender end, leaving the swab in the pink media. Label the vial with FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, DOB, COLLECTION DATE/TIME. **A SEPARATE REQUISITION MUST BE USED FOR EACH COVID19 TEST.**

Double-bag the vial, placing the test requisition in the outer bag, making sure that it does not come into contact with the transport vial.

Once collected, specimens must be refrigerated until AHA picks them up from the facility. Specimens will be transported to LabCorp for PCR testing.

Due to the overwhelming backlog of tests, turnaround times for COVID19 results from LabCorp are ranging between 9 to 14 Days

AHA phlebotomists will adhere to Enhanced Universal Precautions while physically in nursing facilities, when performing blood draws, and during specimen pickup and transport activities. Phlebotomists are also required to comply with facility requests for information and protocols for donning personal protective equipment (PPE) provided at each facility.

Nasopharyngeal swabs for Influenza, Resp Viral Panel, and COVID19 should be ready for the phlebotomist's A.M. pickup to ensure the fastest turn-around times for results.