



21st January 2020

Information for customers

Current Information regarding 2019-nCoV (also called Wuhan Corona Virus)

Recommendations for specimens from CDC

All Sigma Virocult[®] and Sigma VCM[™] devices would be suitable for Upper Respiratory Tract specimens in accordance with the published guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

17th January, 2020

Specimen Type and Priority

To increase the likelihood of detecting infection, CDC recommends:

Collection of three specimen types, lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum specimens for testing is recommended. If possible, additional specimen types (e.g., stool, urine) should be collected and should be stored initially until decision is made by CDC whether additional specimen sources should be tested. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a PUI is identified regardless of symptom onset. Maintain [proper infection control](#) when collecting specimens.

General Guidelines

Store specimens at 2-8°C and ship overnight to CDC on ice pack. Label each specimen container with the patient's ID number (e.g., medical record number), unique specimen ID (e.g., laboratory requisition number), specimen type (e.g., serum) and the date the sample was collected.

B. Upper respiratory tract

Nasopharyngeal swab AND oropharyngeal swab (NP/OP swab)

Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing. Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 ml of viral transport media. NP and OP specimens should be kept in separate vials. Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and ship overnight to CDC on ice pack.



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Nasopharyngeal swab: Insert a swab into the nostril parallel to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions. Swab both nasopharyngeal areas with the same swab.

Oropharyngeal swab (e.g., throat swab): Swab the posterior pharynx, avoiding the tongue.

Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate

Collect 2-3 mL into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and ship overnight to CDC on ice pack.

Note

The above instructions are for users in United States.

Other users should follow national and international guidelines as pertinent to their region.

For details of Sigma Virocult® & Sigma VCM™ * visit our website at www.mwe.co.uk

**Sigma VCM™ is not available in USA*