

# COVID-19 specimen collection guidelines

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Sonora Quest Laboratories specimen requirements and acceptable supplies for SARS-CoV-2 RNA (COVID-19), Qualitative, NAAT (test code 907080)

## Nasopharyngeal (NP) and/or oropharyngeal (OP) swabs or nasal swabs

The tests performed under this test code are being offered under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA. The EUA stipulates the tests may be used only for the detection of nucleic acid from SARS CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens. The authorization is valid only for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the EUA for in vitro diagnostic tests for the detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under Section 564(b)(1) of the Act 21, U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

**This guide is intended to describe the collection devices to be used for upper respiratory specimens for COVID-19. Visit our website at [SonoraQuest.com/coronavirus](https://www.SonoraQuest.com/coronavirus) to find collection instructions for specific devices.**

### General comments:

- Use only sterile polyester swabs with plastic shafts. Wired shafts swabs are acceptable as long as they do not interfere with tightly closing the cap.
- Flocked swabs are preferred.
- Note for Nasopharyngeal collection, the stem/shaft must be flexible and long enough to collect the NP sample.
- Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shaft or swabs in bacterial culturette-type Amies Gel transport (see Unacceptable Specimens Section below), as they may contain substances that inhibit PCR testing.
- Dual-tipped cotton swabs “Q-tips™” are unacceptable for testing and will be rejected.
- All collection containers must contain the following information. Any collection containers received without the information, will be rejected.
  - o Manufacturer
  - o Contents
  - o Lot number
  - o Expiration date
- Dry swab submissions are unacceptable and will be rejected.
- Any swab submitted in media containing guanidinium isothiocyanate, guanidinium thiocyanate, guanidine isothiocyanate, guanidine thiocyanate, or like component is unacceptable and will be rejected.
- **Please note:** Swabs should be stored at room temperature PRIOR to use.

To request specimen transport media and swab supplies for SARS-CoV-2 RNA (COVID-19), Qualitative, NAAT (test code 907080), please order from the COVID-19 supplies listed below.

Kits are available for nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP), and anterior nares (nasal) specimens.

Please note: comparable supply items may be substituted as needed.

**COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs supplied by Sonora Quest for test code 907080 – Nasopharyngeal (NP), Oropharyngeal (OP), and Nasal Specimens**

Listed on Sonora Quest Laboratories Provider Portal and in Quantum™ eLabs

**COVID-19 Media with  
Nasopharyngeal Swab  
(Cap colors may vary)**

SQL Supply # 44921



Swab - Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab  
Flocked  
Tube – Vacuette Virus  
Stabilization Tube



Swab – NP flocked

**COVID-19 Media with Anterior Nares  
(Nasal) / Oropharyngeal Swab  
(Cap colors may vary)**

SQL Supply # 44947



Swab - Anterior Nares (Nasal) / Oropharyngeal  
Tube– Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)



Swab - Anterior Nares (Nasal) / Oropharyngeal  
Tube– Saline



Swab - Anterior Nares (Nasal) / Oropharyngeal  
Tube– Universal Transport Medium (UTM)

Nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP) or Anterior Nares (Nasal) supplies can be ordered through our SonoraQuest.com Provider Portal, Quantum, or by faxing a Client Supply Request Form to 602.685.5402 in Phoenix (central and northern AZ), or 520.296.5607 in Tucson (southern AZ).

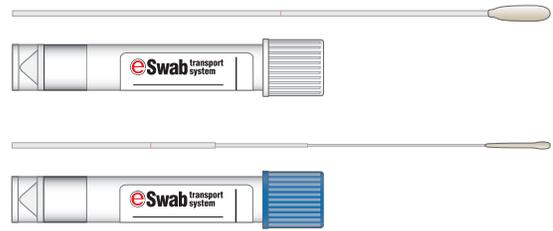
This guide describes COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs supplied by Sonora Quest for test code 907080. For the most up to date list of acceptable collection devices for COVID-19 please visit

[SonoraQuest.com/covid-19-information-for-healthcare-providers/](https://www.sonorquest.com/covid-19-information-for-healthcare-providers/)

**Other acceptable COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs for Sonora Quest test code 907080 continued – Nasopharyngeal (NP), Oropharyngeal (OP), and Nasal Specimens**

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| <p>Hardy Diagnostics<br/>Healthlink UTM<sup>5</sup><br/>Hardy: 3CO36NHL: NP Swab*<br/>Hardy: 3CO38NHL: OP*</p> <p>Hardy: 3CO39NHL (combo 1 minitip flocked swab, 1 regular flocked swab and 3 mL UTM medium)*</p> |  <p>Hardy: 3CO36NHL: NP      Hardy: 3CO38NHL: OP</p> |
| <p>UTM (Copan)<sup>2*</sup></p>   |  <p>or</p>   |
| <p>VCM (Diagnostic Hybrids)<sup>*</sup></p>   |   |
| <p>UVT (BD)<sup>3</sup><br/>Flexible minitip flocked swab and regular flocked swab that come with the UVT are acceptable*</p>   |    |

**Other acceptable COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs for Sonora Quest test code 907080 continued – Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) Specimens Only**

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| <p>E-swabs/Liquid Amies medium<br/>routine swab–Oropharyngeal swab<br/>minitip swab–NNasopharyngeal swab</p> |  |
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\* Samples accepted for testing however supplies not available through Sonora Quest Laboratories.

**Other acceptable COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs for Sonora Quest test code 907080 continued – Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) Specimens Only**

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| <p>M4 (Fisher/Remel)<sup>6*</sup><br/>Contains vancomycin, amphotericin B, and colistin and is suitable for transport of viruses, Chlamydiae, Mycoplasma and Ureaplasma</p>  |    |
| <p>M4RT (Fisher/Remel)<sup>6*</sup><br/>Contains gentamicin and amphotericin B and is only suitable for transport of viruses and Chlamydiae</p>  |    |
| <p>M5 (Fisher/Remel)<sup>6*</sup><br/>Similar to the M4, but it does not contain gelatin</p>   |    |
| <p>M6 (Fisher/Remel)<sup>6*</sup><br/>Contains gelatin, vancomycin, amphotericin B, and colistin for the transport of viruses, Chlamydiae, Ureaplasmas, and Mycoplasmas</p>  |  |
| <p>Puritan® UniTranz-RT Universal Transport Medium (UTM) with no swabs<br/>1 mL (UT-100); 3 mL (UT-300)*</p> <p>Puritan® UniTranz-RT UTM with flocked swabs for NP (1 mL)<br/>Minitip (UT-116 and UT-316)*<br/>Ultrafine flocked swabs (UT-117)*<br/>Elongated swab (UT-367)*</p> <p>Puritan® UniTranz-RT UTM with flocked swabs for NP (3 mL)*<br/>Ultrafine flocked swabs (UT-317)*</p> <p>Puritan® UniTranz-RT UTM with flocked swabs for OP (1 mL)<br/>Large flocked swab (UT-106)*<br/>Elongated flocked swab (UT-306)*</p> <p>Puritan® UniTranz-RT UTM with Polyester swabs for OP (3 mL)*<br/>One swab (UT-361)*<br/>Two swabs (UT-362)*<br/>NP and OP both 1 minitip and 1 standard (UT-366 and UT-302)*</p> |  |

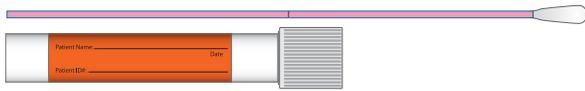
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**Other acceptable COVID-19 specimen transport media and swabs for Sonora Quest test code 907080 continued – Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) Specimens Only**

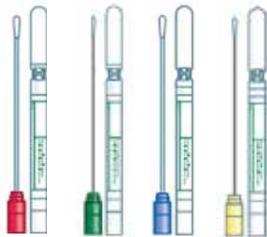
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| <p>Puritan® Dry Transport System – Sterile Flock Swab (25-3606-U BT)</p> |  <p>NOTE: This is for use as a swab with other acceptable media types only. Do not put liquid media into transport system tube.</p> |
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**Unacceptable specimens**

Calcium alginate swabs, wooden shafted swabs, charcoal medium, anaerobic swab/transport medium

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| <p>Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit</p> |  |
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| <p>Aptima® Specimen Collection Kits – Aptima Unisex and Aptima Urine Collection Kits</p> |  |
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| <p>Swab in Amies liquid transport<br/>Amies in swabs is generally in a sponge so there is no fluid to test for COVID-19</p> <p>Single or double swab (red cap)<br/>Twisted wire shaft swab (green cap)</p> <p>Swab in Amies gel transport<br/>Gel is not acceptable for PCR<br/>Single or double swab (blue cap)<br/>Twisted wire shaft swab (yellow cap)</p> |  |
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| <p>BD EZ Swab (single swab)<sup>12</sup><br/>Product code 220093</p> |  <p>Available with liquid Stuart or liquid Amies media in more than 15 swab and shaft configurations, BD CultureSwab products are designed to meet a wide range of transport needs <sup>3</sup></p> |
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| <p>BD EZ Swab (double swab)<sup>13</sup><br/>Product code 220105</p> |  <p>BD BBL™ CultureSwab™ EZ II collection and transport systems are simple-to-use, media-free systems that contain a patented polyurethane foam swab</p> |
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**Unacceptable specimens continued**

Calcium alginate swabs, wooden shafted swabs, charcoal medium, anaerobic swab/transport medium

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| <p>Quidel urethral swab<br/>PeopleSoft #: 142058<br/>PeopleSoft product ID #: S09<br/>Quanam product ID #: S09<br/>Mfg Part #: #99-08014-VCM</p>  |    |
| <p>Abbott individually wrapped multi-collect specimen collection kit<br/><br/>Abbott sterile specimen swab with scored shaft</p>  |     |
| <p>BD MaxV<sup>14</sup><br/>Product code 220235 (single swab, gel/no charcoal)<br/><br/>Product code 220236 (double swab, Amies gel/no charcoal)<br/><br/>Product code 220122 (dbl swab, Amies gel w/ charcoal)</p> |  <p>The BD CultureSwab MaxV system is available with liquid Stuart or liquid Amies media, in single- or double-swab formats, for the transport of aerobes. Additionally, the BD CultureSwab MaxV (+) system is available in Amies gel medium without charcoal, in single- and double-swab formats, for the transport of aerobic and facultative anaerobic organisms<sup>5</sup></p> |
| <p>BBL BD CultureSwab™–Liquid Stuart (minitip swab-green cap)<br/>Product code 220133</p>   |    |
| <p>BD ProbeTec™ transport vials</p>   |    |
| <p>PrimeStore – MTM®</p>  |    |
| <p>Beaver</p>   |    |

**Unacceptable specimens continued**

Calcium alginate swabs, wooden shafted swabs, charcoal medium, anaerobic swab/transport medium

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| <p>Inveox transport media</p> |  |
| <p>DNA/RNA Shield™</p>        |  |

Ref: Equivalency—Copan Universal Transport Medium (UTM) Copan Universal Transport Medium (UTM), BD UVT, Hardy-HealthLink UTM and Quest VCM transports are equivalent products. They are manufactured in identical fashion with all raw materials being utilized in all products being equivalent and at the same ratios.

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