

PLEASE NOTE:

DO NOT use swabs that contain calcium alginate or swabs with wooden shafts or cotton swabs.

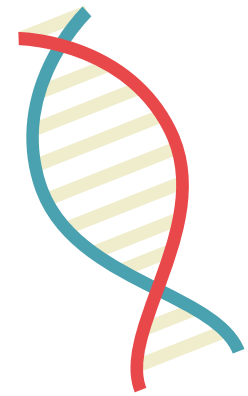
- These swab types may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing

Preferred Collection Supplies:

- Synthetic fiber swabs (flocked swabs) with plastic or aluminum shafts (similar swabs for other viral tests such as flu, measles, RVP).
- Sterile tube with 2-3 mL viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM)

Alternate Swab Types:

- E-Swab by Copan with regular or flex minitip ([481C](#) or [482C](#)).
- Opti-Swab by Puritan ([LA-117](#)).
- HydraFlock by Puritan ([25-3317-H](#)).



Alternate Transport Media:

- Liquid Amies media

What if none of the above are available?

*If the above are not available, the following could be used to collect and transport samples for molecular RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 assays:

- Dry swab in 1-3 mL of saline or phosphate buffered saline in a sterile glass or plastic vial
- **Puritan:** 25-3317-H, 25-3316-U, 25-3316-H, 25-3317-U, 25-3318-U, 25-3318-H, 25-3319-H, 25-3320-U, 25-3320-U EMB 100MM, 25-3320-U EMB 80MM, 25-3320-H and 25-3320-H EMB 80MM
- **Copan:** 501CS01, 503CS01, 516CS01, 518CS01 and 534CS01
- A sterile foam swab or sterile spun synthetic swab is acceptable
- If the applicator handle requires additional trimming, the trimming should be performed with a sterile pair of scissors to prevent contamination of the sample.

Specimen Storage:

Swab should be stored between 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.

For the most up-to-date information:

Tennessee Department of Health

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID19SpecimenSubmissionGuide.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/testing-laboratories.html>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>

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*Swab recommendations are based on limited available evidence, and expert opinion suggested further research was needed in this area.