NP Swab Collection and Transport Instructions:
Respiratory Virus Tests (Basic RVP, Extended RVP, and/or COVID-19)

As of April 9, 2020, all Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sars-CoV-2 samples being transported through a pneumatic tube system should be DOUBLE BAGGED before tube transport and all sample tubes should be securely closed to avoid leaking. Previous instructions are no longer valid.

Kit Contents:

1 NP Swab (may be metal or plastic shaft depending on supply availability). DO NOT substitute other swabs (Calcium alginate-tip and wooden shaft swabs are not acceptable).

1 Tube with liquid transport media (may be pink or clear liquid depending on supply availability).

Sample Collection:

- Insert swab into one nostril & advance to posterior nasopharynx (picture). Rub mucosa with swab and rotate for 5 seconds. Note: anterior nares swabbing **is insufficient** & can cause false negative.
- Remove swab and place in tube with liquid media.
- Remove excess shaft and swab cap (any excess extending above lip of the tube) to leave short segment of shaft with tip in tube.
    - For <u>metal shaft swabs</u>, bend & break off wire shaft to remove cap and excess shaft.
    - For <u>plastic shaft swabs</u>, the shaft has a score line to facilitate breaking. Insert swab part-way into tube & bend shaft to break at score line (tip should remain in tube).
- **Tightly screw cap on specimen tube with swab tip in tube**. (swab cap in tube)
- Label tube with patient beaker test label. If multiple test orders, put COVID-19 test label on tube and other labels in bag with specimen. Complete electronic collect step for all orders.

Storage and Transport:

Deliver to DUHS Microbiology immediately. **Double bag specimen**. Tube system transport is fine. Keep specimen on ice pack or refrigerated, if transport is delayed.

Duke Community Health Watch program:

After collection, please give patient flyer (on reverse) and say, 'Please consider enrolling in the Duke Community Health Watch program to help you manage your symptoms.'

Updated: 4/15/20

Pandemic Response Network: Duke Community Health Watch

https://covidwatch.dukehealth.org

What is it?
- "Duke Community Health Watch" is an approved 28-day symptom monitoring program to enhance the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- The study is open to all individuals of all ages.

Why should I sign up?
- Helps you safely manage symptoms related to COVID-19 at home.
- Helps you follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and public health departments to self-monitor symptoms related to COVID-19.
- We send you reminders twice a day in email and text messages to report your COVID-19 related symptoms and COVID-19 test results.
- While entering symptoms into surveys, we present you information about the severity of your symptoms and the potential need to seek medical care or call 911.
- If you report severe symptoms or become unresponsive, we call you to assess the severity of your symptoms and provide you information about seeking appropriate medical care.

What is the impact?
- Helps people safely manage symptoms related to COVID-19 at home.
- Improve the COVID-19 pandemic response for people and populations.
- Characterize COVID-19 disease progression, identify risk factors for severe COVID-19 infection, and improve how health systems plan for inpatient and outpatient capacity for the COVID-19 response.

Who should sign up for this?
- Anyone with flu-like symptoms, viral test orders for COVID-19, confirmed COVID-19, or concern for exposure to COVID-19.
- Anyone who is concerned about exposure to COVID-19.
- You do not need to have COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms to enroll.
- You can live anywhere in the United States and be any age.

What do I have to do?
- Enroll in the study on the study website (https://covidwatch.dukehealth.org).
- Report symptoms twice a day for 28 days using a cell phone or computer.

What do I do if I have questions?
- For information about the study, visit https://covidwatch.dukehealth.org.
- Call 919-684-7979 or email covidwatch@duke.edu

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