



# Long Term Care (LTC) Testing



COVID-19

## How to Conduct Testing in the LTC Facility



### Why are tests conducted in LTC facilities?

Long Term Care (LTC) testing is intended to rapidly identify staff infected with COVID-19 in order to prevent transmission to residents.

Tests are to be administered to:

- All staff and residents, regardless of symptoms

### Who will conduct the testing?



#### LTC Nursing Staff

In some cases, the LTC Nursing staff may conduct testing on staff and/or residents. Nursing staff should become familiar with How to Conduct a test by watching the instructional video.



#### Testing Teams

In some cases, an outside team will conduct testing. Team design may vary. The standard regional LTC Incident Management Teams (LTC IMT) are comprised of:

- 2 paramedics with an ALS unit (lead paramedic serves as team leader)
- 1 contract nurse
- 2 Florida National Guardsmen

Other agents of the State may be utilized to support testing.

### When will testing take place?



Facility Point of Contact (POC) will pre-register patients (residents) for testing using the lab portal.

Facility POC will print requisition forms for authorization for testing.

Facility POC will schedule testing for staff and/or residents.

All employees need to complete the registration process prior to the scheduled test and bring their printed requisition form on the day of testing.

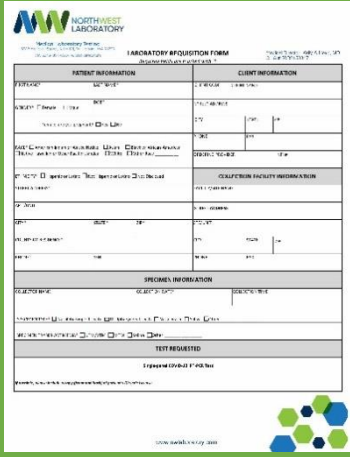
### Step 1 Collection Test Kit Contents

Vial with Universal Transport Medium (UTM) or Viral Transport Medium (VTM)



Nasal Swab (small tip)

Oral Swab (larger tip)



If completing a paper copy, complete ALL REQUIRED FIELDS (marked with an \*) of the requisition for each patient.

### Step 2 Conduct Test: Nasal Swab

#### Nasal Swab

1. Wear appropriate PPE. (PPE should be donned prior to entering facility and changed when appropriate.)
2. Open swab package; remove swab without touching tip on any surface. Open cap to Universal Transport Medium (UTM).
3. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees, stand off slightly to side in case patient coughs
4. Insert swab into nostril, parallel to palate (half the distance of patient's nostril to ear).
5. Rotate swab; leave in place for few seconds to absorb secretions.
6. Remove swab, placing immediately into UTM. Break off swab stick at indicator line.

#### Throat Swab

1. Wear appropriate PPE. (PPE should be donned prior to entering facility and changed when appropriate.)
2. Open swab package; remove swab without touching tip on any surface. Open cap to Universal Transport Medium (UTM).
3. Tilt patient's head back slightly and stand off slightly to side in case patient coughs. Warn patient they may gag.
4. Insert swab into mouth avoiding tongue and roof of mouth to touch back wall of pharynx. Use tongue depressor only if needed.
5. Rotate swab; leave in place for few seconds as tolerated to absorb secretions.
6. Remove swab, placing immediately into UTM. Break off swab stick at indicator line.



To learn more, scan the QR code (right) or enter the following address in a browser to watch an instructional video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syXd7kgLSN8>

### Step 3 Repackage & Ship:

1. After collect, swabs should be placed immediately into sterile transport tubes containing 2–3 ml of media.
2. Label each specimen as directed.
  - the patient's first and last name
  - the patient's date of birth
  - date the sample was collected
3. Place the specimen in the individual specimen bags (provided).
4. Add the completed requisition form (Laboratory Order) to the side pocket of the specimen bag.
5. Compile all specimens for return shipping.
  - Pack no more than 50 individual specimen bags into the provided clinical shipping boxes.
6. Ship overnight, with provided materials, to:

Northwest Laboratory  
3548 Meridian Street, Suite 101  
Bellingham, WA 98225