



March 16, 2020

RE: SARS-CoV-2 Testing

Dear Valued Clients,

1. Our sister lab, Viracor is working diligently to process the high volume of SARS-CoV-2 test samples they are receiving from around the country. To allow Viracor to focus on this work, if you have any questions regarding the samples that you sent to Viracor, please contact Boston Heart's Customer Care Department at 877-425-1252.
2. If you have test stickers that do not ask for a collection site, please indicate **NP swab** on the requisition.
3. Boston Heart has sent out hundreds of test kits with return FedEx shipping labels for Monday through Friday delivery. If you send specimens on Friday and need a label for Saturday delivery, please contact Boston Heart's Customer Care Department at 877-425-1252.
4. For our clients located in New York, please do not order the Respiratory Panel because, to date, it has not received approval from the New York State Department of Health.
5. Please see attached **NP swab** collection instructions.

Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection¹

Materials:

- Sterile Dacron/nylon swab
- Viral transport media tube (should contain 1-3 ML of sterile viral transport medium)

Procedure:

1. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
2. Insert swab into nostril. (Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.) Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
3. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. (Swab both nostrils with same swab)
4. Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.
5. Label the specimen using permanent marker on viral transport media tube with **2 unique identifiers** (e.g. full name and date of birth) and ensure cap on tube is tightly sealed. (Do not use a pencil or pen for labeling, as they can rub off or smear).
6. Place specimen in biohazard bag. Place biohazard bag into labeled Viracor shipping bag.
7. Keep specimens refrigerated at 2-8 degrees Centigrade prior to shipping and ship on day of collection.

¹ Influenza Specimen Collection Guide; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/healthcare/flu-specimen-collection-guide.pdf>