

Notification is being re-sent due to previously incomplete distribution.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) RNA Detection, Varies

Test ID: COVID

Explanation: Effective immediately, the following changes will be applied to specimen acceptability and appropriate CPT code use.

Current Acceptable Specimen Sources
Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
Oropharyngeal (OP) swab
Nares/Nasal swab

New Acceptable Specimen Sources
Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
Oropharyngeal (OP) swab
Nares/Nasal swab
Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid
Bronchial washings
Endotracheal aspirate
Sputum

Current Specimen Rejection Criteria
Calcium alginate-tipped swab, wooden shaft swab, dry swab, or swab collection tubes containing gel or charcoal additive.

New Specimen Rejection Criteria
Calcium alginate-tipped swab, wooden shaft swab, dry swab, or swab collection tubes containing gel or charcoal additive.
Transport media tubes containing entire swab (shaft and knob attached)
Glass transport media tubes

Current Specimen Stability		
Specimen	Temperature	Time
Varies	Frozen (preferred)	7 days
	Refrigerate	48 hours

New Specimen Stability		
Specimen	Temperature	Time
Varies	Frozen (preferred)	7 days
	Refrigerate	72 hours

Current CPT Code
87635

New CPT Code
U0003

Questions

Contact James Conn, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.