

Below is a streamlined testing approach for all patients. This information is available on the Emergency Management section of the Hub and posted on our external website:

MA DPH Guidelines for COVID-19 have expanded. Testing for patients with fever and/or respiratory illness **no longer requires prior approval by MA DPH or by ID**. MA DPH guidance for testing can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-pui-criteria/download>.

### **Where to send the test**

High-priority groups go to DPH lab (fastest turnaround time \*for now\*. Anticipate in-house assay will be available by 3/23/20 and guidance will change)

- The following patient groups are high-priority for rapid turnaround and should be tested through the MA DPH State Lab:
  - ICU admission
  - Diagnosis of pneumonia
  - Symptomatic homelessness
  - Symptomatic health care workers
- MA DPH paper form is essential for tracking and should be completed.
  - Ideally, include clinical information but **at least patient name and date of birth**. Link to the form is in the order panel and here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/specimen-submission-form/download>

### All other groups to commercial lab

- Testing for most persons with fever/respiratory illness will be sent twice daily and performed at a commercial lab.

### **Where will the test result?**

- Results will be available in Epic
- Lab will page the ordering provider with positive results unless the patient has been discharged
- Lab will also page the ID fellow for patients in the ICU
- For discharged patients, a centralized nursing team will call patients with COVID-19 results
- Command Center receives reports on testing and results
- Expected turn around at least 24 to 72 hours after receipt by the reference laboratory
- Employee health results will be managed by Working Well

### **How to order the test**

- See information sheet below on how to collect NP swab
- Label the tube with patient label and small label. If not nasopharyngeal source, note it on the label.

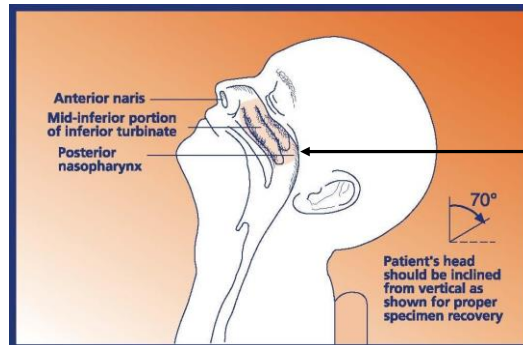
### From the ED

- Collect a single Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) submitted in a viral transport tube (UTM or VTM) to test for COVID-19 and the **Comprehensive Respiratory Panel** (from the same swab).

### From the ILLI clinic

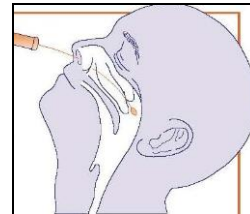
- Collect a single Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) submitted in a viral transport tube (UTM or VTM) to test for COVID-19 and **Flu/RSV** (from the same swab).
- If the patient is being transferred to the ED, don't order the Flu/RSV as the ED will add on the comprehensive respiratory panel instead (from the same COVID swab).

## NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUS TESTING



SWAB HERE FOR  
NASOPHARYNGEAL  
COLLECTION

### NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION



#### Supplies:

- x Nasopharyngeal swab with synthetic floccled fiber tip &
- x Sterile specimen transport container with 3 mL Viral Universal Transport Medium (UTM)

1. Insert swab into one nostril until tip reaches posterior nasopharynx (half way between nostrils and outer opening of ear)
2. Rotate swab over surface of posterior nasopharynx
3. Withdraw swab from collection site
4. Repeat procedure for the second nostril with same swab
5. Insert swab into UTM transport tube
6. Immediately transport specimen to the laboratory. If transport is delayed place specimen on ice or in refrigerator.