

National Microbiology Laboratory

Quick Reference: L (QR:L)

Collecting the Patient Sample

NML, PHAC

11-27-2020



Collecting the Patient Sample

1. Direct nasal, throat or nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs can be used for the Abbott ID NOW™ COVID-19 assay.

For best performance, samples should be tested as soon as possible after collection and within one hour.

*The Abbott ID NOW™ COVID-19 Assay Kit includes swabs for the collection of nasal or throat samples. NP swabs must be purchased separately.

- a. If immediate testing is not possible, swabs can be placed in a clean, unused tube, labeled with patient information, capped tightly, and stored at room temperature (15-30°C) for up to one (1) hour prior to testing
- b. If a greater than one (1) hour delay occurs between swab collection and testing, dispose of the swab and collect a new swab from the patient unless indicated otherwise by your local health authority.
- c. *** The swab **must not** be placed into transport media

*****Proper swab collection and storage are critical. A trained healthcare professional must collect the swab***