

## TEST INFORMATION

# Collection of Respiratory Virus Specimen Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV (Wuhan)

To maximise test sensitivity SA Pathology recommends collection of a combined throat and deep nasal swab using a Viral Transport Swab (Green top) and/or sputum.

### Personal protection

- Place a surgical mask on the patient
- Place patient in isolated room
- While reviewing the patient, use a disposable fluid resistant gown, gloves, surgical mask and eye protection
- While collecting specimens, use airborne precautions, i.e. a N95/P2 mask and eye protection must also be used.

### Throat (posterior pharyngeal) and anterior nasal swab collection

1. Stand to one side and tilt the patient's head back slightly.
2. Ask the patient to open the mouth and say "argh"
3. Depress the tongue with a tongue depressor.  
**Note** – this procedure can induce the gag reflex.
4. With a sweeping motion, swab the posterior pharyngeal wall and tonsillar pillars. Avoid the soft palate and do not touch the tongue with the swab tip.
5. Using the same swab, insert the swab tip into the nostril as far as the anterior end of the nasal turbinate, parallel to the palate. (Approximately 2-3cm in adults).
6. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds then slowly withdraw using a rotating motion.
7. Put the swab directly into the transport tube.
8. Label the tube with patient name, collection date and source.

### Request Form

Complete a request form with patient details, date of collection, clinical history (including date of onset of symptoms) and request 'Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and common respiratory viruses'.

Place the specimen in a biohazard bag. Send specimens promptly to SA Pathology.

### Results

SA Pathology will test for the common respiratory viruses, Mycoplasma pneumoniae and Bordetella pertussis by PCR. Patients who are assessed by Communicable Diseases Control Branch (CDCB) and deemed high risk will have their specimen sent to Victoria Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) on a daily basis.

SA Pathology is in the process of developing a specific in house diagnostic test for this novel Coronavirus.



To order Viral Transport Swabs please go to [www.sapathology.sa.gov.au](http://www.sapathology.sa.gov.au) and click on Supplies/Ordering.

