



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 TESTING UNITS
LABORATORY TEST: SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR

This standing order is issued by Dr. Cara Christ, MD MS (NP #1639369036), Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services. This standing order authorizes any medical provider / trained personnel at a medically-supervised COVID-19 testing unit in Arizona to collect and send a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test for any individual in accordance with the conditions of this order.

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria are required for a medical provider/trained personnel at a testing unit to collect a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test by this standing order:

Individual who reports that he or she is symptomatic of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, myalgia or fatigue

AND

Individual who has signed a consent and voluntary isolation agreement (or parent/guardian, if patient cannot legally consent)

PLAN OF CARE

Medical provider / trained personnel operating at a testing unit may collect a nasopharyngeal swab and order a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR.

- A. Preparation to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:
 - 1. Ensure correct testing materials: (1) Sterile Dacron/nylon swab with an aluminum or plastic shaft (cotton swabs with wooden shafts are not recommended); (1) Viral transport media tube with 1-3mL of sterile viral transport medium.
 - 2. Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment for medical provider: gloves, gowns, surgical mask (or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).
- B. Instructions to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:
 - 1. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
 - 2. Insert swab into nostril **parallel** to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions.
 - 3. Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
 - 4. Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.
- C. Instructions to process clinical specimens:
 - 1. Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.
 - 2. Process specimens in accordance with national biological safety regulations, procedures as listed under the CDC Emergency Authorization Agreement, and the supervising Arizona healthcare facility.

NOTE: Emergency medical services should be activated if a patient appears toxic, is struggling to breathe, or moribund.

FOLLOW-UP

- 1. Test results should be reported to the patient within one week of the testing unit's receipt of the test result.
 - o A positive result requires continued in home isolation per local health department recommendations.
- 2. Results should be reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services, as required by Arizona Administrative Code, R9-6-202.

Cara Christ, MD MS, Director of Arizona Department of Health Services
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Douglas A. Ducey | Governor Cara M. Christ, MD, MS | Director