

HETL Swab and Transport Media Chart

Provider Collected	nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare provider	anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage
Swab Type	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	None. Use a sterile, leakproof container	None. Use a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap collection cup or sterile dry container
Transport Media	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	Should be sent as collected in a sterile, leakproof container	None. Use a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap collection cup or sterile dry container

Self-Collection	anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen self-collection under direct medical supervision	nasal mid-turbinate swab specimen self-collection under direct medical supervision
Swab Type	flocked or spun polyester swab	flocked tapered swab
Transport Media	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies