

COVID-19 PCR Test

Instructions for nasal swab specimen collection Clinician collection and patient self-collection

1. Wash hands with soap and water for 30 seconds before starting.
2. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, use a new Hologic Direct Load Tube Collection Kit.
3. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line. Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.



4. Carefully insert the swab into the first nostril until the swab **tip** is no longer visible, i.e. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or 1.25 to 2 cm into the nostril. Rotate the swab with moderate pressure against as much of the wall of the nostril as possible in a large circular path inside the nose at least 4 times (approximately 10-15 seconds per nostril) against the nasal wall and remove from nostril.

Note: Simply twirling the swab against one part of the inside of the nose or leaving the swab in the nose for 10-15 seconds, is not proper technique and may result in an insufficient sample.

5. Using the same swab, carefully insert the swab into the second nostril until the swab **tip** is no longer visible, i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch into the nostril. Rotate the swab with moderate pressure against as much of the wall of the nostril as possible in a large circular path inside the nose at least 4 times (approximately 10-15 seconds per nostril) and remove from nostril. **Do not force the swab any further up and into nose at any point.**

Note: You must collect the sample from both nostrils!



6. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new Hologic Direct Load Tube Collection Kit.

Note to Patient: Inform your doctor or healthcare worker if liquid is spilled and a new kit is required.

Warning: *If you come into contact with liquid from the tube, wash your hands with soap and water for 30 seconds.*

7. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.



8. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.

9. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.

10. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.

Note to Patient: Return the collection kit to your doctor or healthcare worker.

