



To: Clinicians and NHLS Cluster Referring Hospitals  
From: Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital (CMJAH), Virology Laboratory  
Date: 08 April 2020  
Re: **Recommended Sampling material for SARS-CoV2 testing- update**

Dear Colleagues

The following is now recommended for the collection of specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing:

- The appropriate specimens to be collected for detection of SARS-CoV-2 are:
  - A **single** dry swab sample is to be collected from either the oropharynx or nasopharynx to be placed immediately into the plastic housing from which the sterile swab was removed.
  - If viral transport media /universal transport media (VTM/UTM) is supplied with the pack then place the oropharynx or nasopharynx swab into the viral transport media /universal transport media (VTM/UTM), ensuring that the unit is sealed and leak proof.
- Dry swab
  - Storage: Room temperature
  - Must be transported on ice to the laboratory (can be kept in fridge-overnight)





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Please be aware that we **do not** recommend use of **calcium alginate** swabs or swabs with **wooden shafts**, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.

As evaluations continue for specimen collection supplies, we will update this list accordingly as this information becomes available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Florette K Treurnicht'.

**Florette K Treurnicht (PhD)**

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