If DOHMH approves testing, providers should collect:

- 1 nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and 1 oropharyngeal swab in the same viral transport medium collection tube
- 1 lower respiratory tract specimen if patient is able to produce (sputum, tracheal aspirate, or bronchoalveolar lavage)

and submit to the clinical laboratory at your facility.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Do not attempt viral culture of specimens from patients suspected of being infected with COVID-19.

Please continue to visit nyc.gov/health for the latest updates, including critical information distributed through the Health Alert Network (HAN).

CDC has released interim laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with COVID-19. For detailed information, please visit:


For specimen collection and handling guidance, Laboratory Test Request Forms for COVID-19, and the link to order NYC PHL tests electronically through eOrder, please visit:

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services/public-health-lab.page#forms

For CDC and WHO guidance for healthcare professionals and laboratories, please visit:

https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020.asp
https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

**eOrder**

- eOrder is the NYC Public Health Laboratory web-based test ordering and result reporting system.
- Facilities should order COVID-19 tests through eOrder. When doing so, please note that only an eOrder form should be submitted. **DO NOT** send a paper requisition and an eOrder form together with the same specimen.
- If your laboratory does not already have an eOrder account, please visit the PHL website for more information.