



**North Dakota Department of Health Microbiology Laboratory
OROPHARYNGEAL Collection Instructions:**

1. The Oropharyngeal collection kit, provided by the Division of Microbiology, includes:
 - a. Abbott multi-Collect specimen collection Kit.
2. Oropharyngeal swab collection – Vigorously rub the posterior wall of the pharynx with a dry, sterile, swab. The swab should not touch the tongue or buccal mucosa.
3. Place Oropharyngeal swab into Viral Transport Media.
 - a. Break the excess length of the swab inside the transport media at the scored break point and cap the tube tightly.
 - b. **Label the tube with the patient's name and date of birth.**
4. Complete a Laboratory Test Request Form with the requested information. Be sure to complete the Patient Data section (symptoms and immunization history) **and** the Travel history form. Select either "SARS-CoV-2 (Novel Coronavirus COVID-19)"
5. Return the universal transport media to the zip-lock plastic biohazard bag that contained the collection supplies and place both the specimen and the completed request form into a category B shipping container provided by the Division of Microbiology.
6. Send refrigerated at 2-8°C to:

For COVID-19 **send within 2 days**

**Division of Microbiology
2635 East Main Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58506**

** If delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C and ship on dry ice. **

If you have any questions regarding specimen collection, please call Kristie Schwarzkopf or Stacey Alexander at 701-328-6272