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