



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Nasopharyngeal Collection Kit – For PCR Testing (RP/ Pertussis/ Influenza)

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C – 8 °C / 35.6 °F – 46.4 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 72 hours (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

#### KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (2 °C – 25 °C / 35.6 °F – 77 °F)

Expiration: kit must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label

#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Nasopharyngeal Swab: nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium (VTM)

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

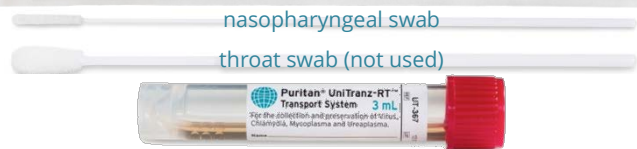
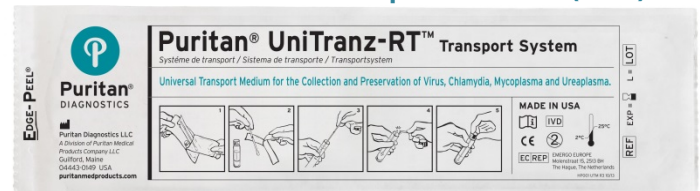
6310: Respiratory PCR Panel (RP)

2110: *Bordetella pertussis* / *parapertussis* PCR

50000: Influenza Virus PCR

50010: Influenza Virus PCR, then RP if Flu is Negative

#### collection swabs & viral transport medium (VTM) tube



#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- holding time greater than 72 hours
- specimen container not labeled
- specimen container has leaked or is not sealed properly
- swab specimens that are missing the swab, contain multiple swabs, or contain the wrong swab

#### SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness.

1. Collect respiratory sample and insert swab into tube of viral transport medium (VTM).  
Nasopharyngeal Swab – Smaller Swab
  - a. Ask the patient to blow their nose to clear their nasal passage and tilt the patient's head backwards.
  - b. Swiftly insert swab into one nostril straight back (not upwards) at a depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear (see image on backside of page).
  - c. Firmly rotate the swab up to 5 times and hold in place for 5-10 seconds to collect epithelial cells.
  - d. Repeat with the other nostril using the same swab.
2. Snap the swab at the scored breakpoint line; place swab in VTM; close the tube tightly.
3. Label the tube with the patient's name, date of birth, and the date/time of collection.
4. Place the collection tube inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
5. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
6. Transport to the laboratory within 72 hours of collection (refrigerated).

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