



## American Health Associates

### **COVID-19 Testing (test code 1430T) Protocol**

Upon receipt of a lab orders for COVID19 testing on a resident who satisfies CDC clinical criteria, AHA will provide the ordering facility with nasopharyngeal swabs on an 'as-available' basis due to the nation-wide shortage.

**In states that require COVID19 specimens be tested at a state laboratory, acquiring swabs and transporting specimens should be arranged through your local health department.**

With the patient's head tilted at a 70° angle, insert the swab along the floor of the nasal septum extending straight back until the posterior nasopharynx is reached. Rotate the swab several times while the swab is in contact with the nasopharynx wall and mucosal surface. The following is a link to a video demonstration of specimen collection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osl9W-00O5g&feature=youtu.be>

Once the specimen is collected, place the swab into the vial transport tube, then break off at the slender end. If liquid media is in the tube, make sure that the nylon tip of the swab is place in the liquid before replacing the cap on the vial. Label the vial with FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, DOB, COLLECTION DATE/TIME. **A SEPARATE REQUISITION MUST BE USED FOR EACH COVID19 TEST.** Once collected, specimens must be refrigerated and subsequently transported in a thermal cooler to maintain temperature between 2°and 8°

**For specimens being picked-up by AHA, the refrigerated swabs in double bags should be ready for the phlebotomist's A.M. pickup to ensure the fastest turn-around times for results.**

AHA phlebotomists will adhere to Enhanced Universal Precautions while physically in nursing facilities, when performing blood draws, and during specimen pickup and transport activities. Phlebotomists are also required to comply with facility requests for information and protocols for donning personal protective equipment (PPE) provided at each facility.

**For specimens being shipped to an AHA Lab testing facility,** the double-bagged specimens should be securely packed in a thermal cooler that includes enough ice packs to keep the specimens between 2°and 8° F and shipped overnight for early next morning delivery to the designated AHA Laboratory address. Questions regarding this process should be directed to the AHA Customer Service Accessioning Supervisor 800.785.0666.