



Standing Order for Anterior Nares Nasal Swab on Adults and Children for COVID-19 Testing

Purpose: To prevent the spread of infectious disease through identification of specific organisms leading to appropriate treatment and public health disease control actions and recommendations.

Policy: Under this Standing Order healthcare professionals working for the Vermont Department of Health as allowed by state law may perform Anterior Nares Nasal Swab on adults or children over the age of 12 months, who have been identified by the Vermont Department of Health as in need of testing for COVID-19. Such healthcare professionals may also teach and observe onsite self-collection of Anterior Nares Nasal Swab on adults or children 14 years or older, who have been identified by the Vermont Department of Health as in need of testing for COVID-19.

All staff performing this test will be trained in specimen collection and proper personal protective equipment specific to this test and be prepared to perform this procedure.

Procedure:

1. Verify that the individual has been identified as needing testing for COVID-19.
2. Review and be familiar with personal protective equipment (PPE) required for doing an Anterior Nares Nasal swab as outlined in the Anterior Nares Nasal Swab procedure in the Clinical Procedure Manual.
3. Assure plan with identified Laboratory for testing of specimen(s) collected. Follow all Laboratory guidance on the proper handling, storage, and shipment of specimens.
4. Ensure all supplies and materials are available.
5. Inform each individual to be tested of the procedure and receive verbal or written agreement for testing. If individual to be tested is a minor, obtain verbal or written agreement from a parent or legal guardian.
6. Document the test that was performed by completing the appropriate lab paperwork, and other documentation required according to Anterior Nares Nasal Swab procedure in the Clinical Procedure Manual. Documentation will be held as part of Infectious Disease Epidemiology Investigation files or at the Health Department's District Office following appropriate procedures as required by state and federal law.

This standing order shall remain in effect until rescinded or until June 30, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Levine", is written over a horizontal line.

Signature: Mark Levine, MD

6/26/2020

Effective Date

Resources

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
Accessed 6/22/2020