

How to transport COVID-19 samples to the laboratory

Sampling for COVID-19 testing

1. Ensure specimen container is appropriately labelled with patient details/TRAK request as per normal process
2. Collect a combined NOSE and THROAT viral swab
3. Ensure specimen container is sealed correctly
4. Package specimen as per instruction below

Sampling for other investigation

1. Ensure specimen container is appropriately labelled with patient details/TRAK request
2. Collect appropriate specimen for test required
3. Ensure specimen container is sealed correctly
4. Package specimen as per instruction below



Packaging requirements

All samples submitted to the laboratories for investigation must be double bagged and labelled with either:

- **Priority 10** – for patients suspected of being infected or known contacts of confirmed cases
- **Priority 20** – for patients confirmed to be positive.



Transport to the laboratory

All samples must be **hand delivered** (e.g. porter) to the nearest laboratory reception. The laboratory reception will then forward on to the final destination.

Specimens must not be sent via the pneumatic tube system