



# Covid-19

Given the extremely high volumes of samples being received, it is very difficult to locate individual samples after they have been received in the laboratory.

Therefore, if testing is urgently required (i.e. a symptomatic contact of a case or a symptomatic air or marine border-facing worker, including in a managed isolation facility), please discuss with Public Health and clearly write on the request form **"URGENT - SYMPTOMATIC WITH EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RISK, DISCUSSED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH"** so that the specimen can be identified and prioritised upon receipt in the laboratory.

Please also label any swabs from symptomatic healthcare workers as **"URGENT - symptomatic healthcare worker"**. These will also be prioritised for testing.

**Asymptomatic persons should not be tested unless advised by Public Health, eg current screening of border facing workers.**

## Nobel Bio UTM swab kits



## Instructions for the Nasopharyngeal Swab (Preferred Sample Type)

1. Wear appropriate PPE
2. **Ensure patient Blows Nose Prior to Collection**
3. NB: the Noble Bio package contains two swabs
  - The finer one is for Nasopharyngeal swabbing, the larger one is an oropharyngeal swab
4. Remove plastic sheath from Nasopharyngeal swab
5. Using the Nasopharyngeal Swab, insert swab into one nostril. For adequate collection the swab tip must extend well beyond the anterior nares until some resistance is met.
6. Press on swab tip and rotate tip slowly for 5-10 seconds across the mucosal surface
7. Break swab into Viral Transport Medium and recap, ensuring there is no leakage
8. Label the swab with the patients full name, D.O.B. and NHI



**Please note: The oropharyngeal swab (the larger swab tip) should only be used where a nasopharyngeal swab is not possible. If an oropharyngeal specimen is collected, it is recommended that a deep nasal specimen is also collected at the same time as this will ensure adequate virus is obtained (see [here](#)).**

## COVID-19 Specimens Handling:



Single bag COVID-19 swabs  
(Double bagging no longer required)



Form in outside pocket of specimen bag  
(Include all patient details)



Do NOT place blood specimen in the same bag as the COVID-19 swab