MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

NEW TEST

Notification Date: October 8, 2024
Effective Date: November 12, 2024

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS CoV-2), Molecular Detection, Varies

Test ID: HPCOV

Useful for:
Diagnosis of COVID-19 illness due to SARS-CoV-2

Method:
Reverse Transcription, Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-qPCR)

Reference Values:
Undetected

Specimen Requirements:

Preferred:

Specimen Type:	Nasopharyngeal swab
Container/Tube:	Sterile container with transport media
Specimen Volume:	Entire specimen with a minimum of 1.5 mL (maximum 3 mL) of transport media.
Collection Instructions:	1. Collect specimen by swabbing back and forth over mucosa surface to maximize recovery of cells. 2. Swab must be placed into viral transport media (eg, M4-RT, M4 or M5), saline, or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). **Media should not contain guanidine thiocyanate (GTC).**
Specimen Type:	Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid
Container/Tube:	Sterile Container
Specimen Volume:	0.6 mL
Additional Information:	**Do not aliquot into viral transport media.**

Acceptable:

Specimen Type:	Oropharyngeal (throat) swab, nasal mid-turbinate, or nares/nasal swab
Supplies:	-Culturette (BBL Culture Swab) (T092) - Mid Turbinate (MT) Swab (FLOQSwab/COPAN) (T864) -Swab, Sterile Polyester (T507)
Container/Tube:	Sterile container with transport media

Specimen Volume:	Entire specimen with a minimum of 1.5 mL (maximum 3 mL) of transport media.
Preferred:	BBL Culture Swab, COPAN Mid-turbinate Swab
Acceptable:	Dacron-tipped swab with plastic handle
Collection Instructions:	Swab must be placed into viral transport media (eg, M4-RT, M4, or M5), saline, or PBS. **Media should not contain guanidine thiocyanate (GTC).**
Specimen Type:	Bronchial washings, endotracheal aspirate, sputum
Container/Tube:	Sterile container
Specimen Volume:	0.6 mL
Additional Information:	**Do not aliquot into viral transport media.**

Minimum Volume: Upper respiratory tract swab in 1.5 mL viral transport media; lower respiratory specimens: 0.3 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Varies	Frozen (preferred)	14 days
	Refrigerated	72 hours

Cautions:

The sensitivity of the assay is dependent on the stage of the illness when the sample is collected, the quality of the specimen submitted, and the test's performance characteristics. SARS-CoV-2 is likely at higher viral loads in the upper respiratory tract (eg, nasopharyngeal swab) during the first 3 to 5 days post onset of symptoms. At later stages of the disease, the virus may be more readily detected in lower respiratory samples (eg, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid).

The test is specific for detecting SARS-CoV-2, and positive test results do not exclude the possibility of co-infection with other respiratory viruses.

An undetected (ie, negative) result does not preclude infection with SARS-CoV-2 and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other patient management decisions.

CPT Code:

87635

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Sunday **Report Available:** Same day/1 to 2 days

Questions

Contact James Conn, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.