



Department of Health and Human Services  
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory  
 221 State Street  
 # 12 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0012  
 Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832

TTY: 1-800-606-0215

## HETL SWAB AND TRANSPORT MEDIA CHART

REVISION SEPTEMBER 2020

<b>Provider Collected</b>	Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	Oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	Nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare provider	Anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare provider	Sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage
<b>Swab Type</b>	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	Flocked, flocked tapered, spun polyester, foam, nylon	None. Use a sterile, leakproof container	None. Use a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap collection cup or sterile dry container
<b>Transport Media</b>	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	Should be sent as collected in a sterile, leakproof container	None. Use a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap collection cup or sterile dry container

<b>Self-Collection</b>	anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen self-collection under direct medical supervision	nasal mid-turbinate swab specimen self-collection under direct medical supervision
<b>Swab Type</b>	flocked or spun polyester swab	flocked tapered swab
<b>Transport Media</b>	VTM, sterile saline, Amies	VTM, sterile saline, Amies