

SAFETY ALERT

OROPHARYNGEAL SWABS NOT TO BE USED FOR NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION



FOR ACTION BY:

ALL Nursing
ALL Physicians
Respiratory Therapists
Physical Therapists
Laboratory Medicine
Supply Chain Management/
Materials Management

ACTION DATE:

April 7, 2020

STATUS:

- Active
 Resolved

CONTACT:

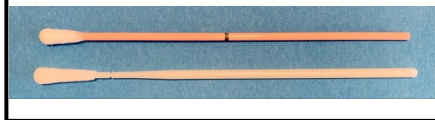
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SITUATION

The oropharyngeal swabs (including Aptima[®]) are larger than nasopharyngeal swabs, creating a risk of breakage and extreme discomfort if inserted into a patient's nasopharynx.

Oropharyngeal swabs are larger and come with:

- Aptima[®] Multitest Medium
- Universal Transport Medium (UTM)



Nasopharyngeal swabs are smaller and come with:

- Universal Transport Medium (UTM)



BACKGROUND

Currently there are two different types of swabs being utilized for COVID-19 testing: Oropharyngeal swabs and nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs.

There will be additional types of swabs for use that will be the same size as the Aptima[®] which are not appropriate for nasopharyngeal specimen collection.

ASSESSMENT

There is a risk of harm to the nasopharynx of a patient if a nasopharyngeal specimen collection is attempted with an oropharyngeal swab.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Site leaders and leaders of test sites, ensure members of your team are aware of the differences between the oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabs and their respective collection procedures (see attached procedures).

FOLLOW-UP

Site leaders ensure that team members are adhering to the attached procedures.