

Site Applicability

Mothers and infants suspected of having COVID-19 receive testing for the presence of the coronavirus. This practice applies to all areas of the Maternal Newborn and Maternity Ambulatory Programs.

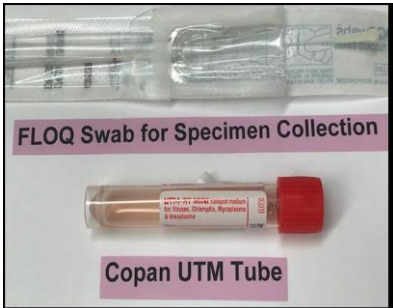
Practice Level/Competencies

Collection of virus testing is a basic level competency and should be performed by all staff or any health care professional. After reviewing collection procedure, no additional education is required.

Policy Statement(s)

- Early identification of cases is vital to the prevention of respiratory infections in health care settings.
- Active screening for COVID-19 is now in place. All clinicians are expected to routinely screen patients for signs of infection, self-isolation and travel history. Patients under investigation should be managed with contact and droplet precautions.
- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs are performed using contact and droplet precautions. The HCP must wear gown, gloves, surgical/procedural mask and eye protection (face shield or goggles). This procedure does not require the use of an N95 mask.

Equipment & Supplies

	<p>NP Swab for: COVID-19</p> <p>It can also be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza Rapid NAT • RSV Rapid Test • Respiratory NAT Panel
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Submit a single swab sample using a Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) in a red topped tube and identify the relevant testing required on the requisition

Procedure

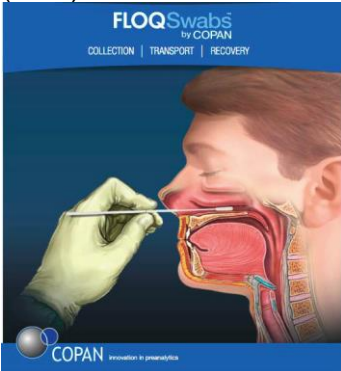
Assessment and Testing for the mother

1. Screen all mothers/patients as per the **COVID-19+ SCREENING AND TESTING ALGORITHM** (on ePOPS)
2. If the patient answers yes to any of the **SCREENING** questions, place on **DROPLET AND CONTACT PRECAUTIONS** and for those who have symptoms, perform test for COVID-19.
3. If a mother/patient develops symptoms (as above) while in hospital during her stay, place on **DROPLET AND CONTACT PRECAUTIONS** and test for the presence of COVID-19.
4. Test for COVID-19: use nasopharyngeal flocked swab (as shown above).
 - a. Gently insert the swab into the nasopharyngeal cavity of the nose until slight resistance is felt. Use a slight twisting motion and leave swab in place for 10 seconds.
 - b. Place swab into tube provided and break the swab.
 - c. Place red cap on tube.
 - d. Place swab into tube provided and break the swab.
 - e. Place red cap on tube.

5. The primary nurse completes requisition with “SUSPECT COVID” (as below) and sends the specimen via the pneumatic tube
6. If a Respiratory NAT Panel has been ordered, the requisition **MUST** be signed by the requesting physician.

Testing the Infant of a COVID-19 positive mother:

7. All infants of COVID positive mothers must have a pediatrician consult at birth or by 90 minutes of age.
8. All infants of mothers who are COVID-19 positive will have an NP swab performed within the first 2 hrs, as per SOGC Guidelines
9. The swab is collected by the Pediatrician
10. Universal separation after birth is not recommended.
11. Families should be informed of the potential risks of rooming in with their infants to allow shared decision making with their health care providers as to what is best for their situation. Skin to skin care and breastfeeding is encouraged. Precautions should include mothers wearing a surgical/procedure mask when providing infant care and practicing frequent proper hand hygiene: prior to skin to skin care, breast feeding, before/after routine baby care etc.
NOTE: Incubation Period is reported to be 3-7 days in general, with the shortest being 1 day, and the longest being 14 days.
12. Infants born to COVID-19 positive mothers should have enhanced surveillance of vital signs testing frequency: q1h for 3 h, then at hour 6, then q4h until discharge or for 24 h.
13. The pediatrician performs the test the infant for COVID-19 using the same type of NP FLOQ swab as used with adults.
 - a. Lay the baby in the infant warmer and wipe the face with a dry cloth.
 - b. Gently tip the infant’s head back slightly.
 - c. Gently insert the swab into the nasopharyngeal cavity of the infant’s nose until slight resistance is felt. Use a slight twisting motion and leave swab in place for 10 seconds.
 - d. Place swab into tube provided and break the swab.
 - e. Place red cap on tube.
14. The primary nurse completes requisition with “SUSPECT COVID” (as below) and sends the specimen via the pneumatic tube.
15. When a mother’s who is PUI has a positive test result for COVID-19, the infant should be swabbed as soon as possible by the pediatrician.

STEPS	RATIONALE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use contact and droplet precautions with a surgical mask, gown, gloves and eye protection when collecting a nasopharyngeal swab. 	<p>The primary method of transmission continues to be DROPLET.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Collect swab as per NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB (NPS) COLLECTION Procedure (on ePOPS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NP FLOQ swab that is used to collect the test for COVID-19 specimen is the same for either a mother or an infant

3. Complete the requisition for mothers and infants suspected of COVID-19

1. The same requisition is used for inpatients (ward) for both the mothers and infants as well as outpatient pregnant mothers/postpartum women (MAP clinic or UCC).
2. If the provider suspects that the mother may have influenza, the “Influenza Rapid NAT” test which includes Influenza A, Influenza B and RSV, may also be ordered (results are obtained within one hour using the same NP FLOQ swab.)
3. The Respiratory NAT test should NOT be ordered for mothers as a routine test when COVID-19 is suspected. If the mother is seriously ill and the Respiratory NAT Panel is ordered, the Physician MUST complete the relevant history and sign the requisition.
 - a) The results are available in 4-6 hours

Documentation

Interdisciplinary Progress Notes; Nursing Flowsheet; Prescriber Orders

Patient & Family Engagement/Education

Families are involved in shared decision making with their health care providers during their stay at BC Women’s Hospital.

References

ePOPS Documents

- COVID-19+ SCREENING AND TESTING ALGORITHM (March 23, 2020)
- NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB (NPS) COLLECTION Procedure (May 2017)

BC Centre for Disease Control

- Pregnant Women with COVID-19+ or PUI General Guidelines for Admission and Hospital Treatment (March 18, 2020)

ELab Handbook

- C&W Medical Microbiology Recommendations for Respiratory NAT Testing 2019
- How to perform an NP FLOQ swab (Youtube Video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE>

Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)

- SOGC Recommendations- COVID-19 and Pregnancy (March 26, 2020)

Definitions

Novel Coronavirus -known as COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization

Version History

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
14-Apr-2020	C-06-12-60610 Testing Mothers and Infants for COVID-19	Developed by C&W COVID Response Working Group; Approved by Professional Practice Director
17-Apr-2020	"	Updated; Approved by Professional Practice Director

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