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Covid-19 Specimen Collection and Transport

Across the NM system, specimens being tested for SARS-CoV-2 (i.e. suspected Covid-19) are evaluated using various analytical platforms. The platform used depends upon the patient population being tested. Platforms have different specimen transport requirements.

- Specimens that are being processed on in-house DMB PCR, Cepheid, and BD Max instrumentation, or being sent out to an external reference lab like Quest or Viracor are collected on a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and transported in a tube with **viral transport medium (VTM)**.
- Specimens that are being processed on Abbott ID Now (i.e. Abbott Alere) are collected on a dry nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and transported in an empty tube.
 - The head of the NP swab should be placed into a **dry, additive-free tube**.


The lab label, which prints prior to sample collection, provides important information about specimen collection and transport. Specimens that require VTM display 'VTM' on the lab label. Specimens that require a dry, empty tube for transport will display 'Dry Tube' on the lab label.


Because we use different lab information systems across NM, labels appear differently in the various regions:

- Central and North use PathNet,
- West uses MLab, and
- Northwest uses Epic Beaker.

Shown below are examples of lab labels as they will print within our various regions.

CENTRAL AND NORTH

STORK, MOTHER	111011393761
1-20-126-00006A	05MAY20 1715
	
27AUG90/F	
S/S	
Feinberg 8 SE	
CORVPCR	
VTM	NP Swab

STORK, MOTHER	111011393761
1-20-126-00010A	05MAY20 1715
	
27AUG90/F	
S/S	
Feinberg 8 SE	
PCOVID	
Dry Tube	NP Swab

WEST

CDHORDERS, AMY
37Y F 10/12/1982 COVID DCH



200014174581
NM9201270028

NM
9201270028
111011393171 05/06/20 10:52
CDHORDERS, AMY

RE COVNMH R 10/12/1982
COVID DCH
VTM

CDHORDERS, AMY
37Y F 10/12/1982 COVID DCH




200014174581
ML700006120

ML
700006120
111011393171 05/06/20 10:58
CDHORDERS, AMY

MI NOWCOVIR 10/12/1982
COVID DCH
DRYTUBE

NORTHWEST

Beaker, Bebe 111011397471
1/1/2019 1 yr F 2000142037-00



20MH-127M00001
RAPID COVID
MH546 02
5/6/20 0857

1000020759
VTM
NP Swab
Routine
Nasopharynx

Beaker, Bebe 111011397471
1/1/2019 1 yr F 2000142037-00



20MH-127M00002
COVID ALERE
MH546 02
5/6/20 0857

INST-10009972
Dry Tube
NP Swab
Routine
Nasopharynx