

## Standing Order for Performing Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) on Adults and Children to test for COVID-19

**Purpose:** To prevent the spread of infectious diseases through identification of specific organisms leading to appropriate treatment and public health disease control actions and recommendations.

**Policy:** Under this standing order, nurses working for the Vermont Department of Health and other healthcare professionals working for the Vermont Department of Health as allowed by state law, may perform a Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) on adults or children over the age of 12 months, who have been identified by the Vermont Department of Health as in need of testing, for COVID-19. All staff performing this test will be trained in specimen collection and proper personal protective equipment specific to this test and be prepared to perform this procedure.

**Procedure:**

1. Verify that the individual has been identified as needing testing for COVID-19
2. Review and be familiar with personal protective equipment (PPE) required for doing a Nasopharyngeal swab as outlined in the performing nasopharyngeal swab (NP) procedure in the [Clinical Procedure Manual](#).
3. Review and be familiar with the procedure for performing a nasopharyngeal swab located in the [Clinical Procedure Manual](#).
4. Collaborate with the University of Vermont Medical Center Laboratory or Vermont Department of Health Laboratory to ensure proper handling, storage, and shipment of specimens.
5. Ensure all supplies including specimen test kits, PPE, storage and shipment of specimens, and required forms for testing and documentation are available.
6. Inform each individual to be tested of the procedure and receive verbal agreement for testing. If individual to be tested is a minor, obtain verbal or written agreement from a parent or legal guardian.
7. Document the test that was performed by completing the appropriate lab paperwork, making a copy of the information and document according to Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) procedure in the Clinical Procedure Manual. Documentation will be held as part of Infectious Disease Epidemiology Investigation files or at the Health Department's District Office following HIPPA procedures.

This order shall remain in effect until rescinded or until 04/01/2021.



Mark Levine, MD

4/20/2020

Date