Specimen Collection for COVID-19 testing

Materials:

- 1 viral transport medium
- 2 synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shaft (Do not use swabs with wood shaft)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Gown
- Gloves
- Mask (N95)
- Eye protection

Contact Trinity County HHSA – Public Health Branch (530-623-8209) or Trinity County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch (530-623-8126 after hours only) to consult with Public Health Duty Officer immediately upon the decision to test for COVID-19. Providers must submit a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to Trinity County HHSA – Public Health Branch on all persons being tested for COVID-19 under the category of Novel Virus Infection with Pandemic Potential listed in §2500. CMR must be faxed to Trinity County Public Health within 24 hours.

Actions requested of all clinicians with patients suspected of having COVID-19 infection:

Collect both Throat (Oropharyngeal) Swab and Nasal (Nasopharyngeal) Swab according to the following directions:

*Note: OP and NP specimens can be placed into one viral transport medium.

**Throat Swab:**

- Use a sterile Viral transport swab.
- Thoroughly swab tonsillar areas and posterior nasopharynx with sterile swab.
- Place swab into viral transport medium.
- Break off excess shaft.

**Nasal swab:**

- Use a sterile Viral Transport swab.
- Place sterile swab into the nasopharyngeal passage approximately 2-3 cm and rotate swab 2-3 times.
- Place swab into viral transport medium.
- Break off excess shaft and cap transport medium tube.

Trinity County Public Health

Phone: 530-623-8209

Fax: 530-623-1297

Refer to CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).