

## SARS –CoV-2 Anterior Nares Testing

### CRITERIA

Patients who meet the following criteria should receive priority for anterior nares testing for COVID-19:

- Children under the age of 16
- Patients at increased risk of bleeding (e.g. thrombocytopenia, anticoagulated) or complications (e.g., neutropenia)
- Patients with nasal anatomic abnormalities (e.g. polyps, deviated septum)
- People who will require frequent, repeat testing (e.g. employees or residents of skilled nursing facilities)
- Those without the cognitive ability to understand the testing procedure (e.g. people in memory care or people with dementia)

### TESTING PROCESS

- Consider offering the option of self-collection of the anterior nares sample under clinician observation for adolescents with the capacity to self-collect.
- Don appropriate PPE
  - If provider obtaining sample: N95, face shield, gloves, gown
  - If patient self-collecting: face shield, mask, gown, gloves. Maintain 6 feet of physical distance
- Using a **Puritan Sterile Rayon Tipped Applicator**
  - Insert the swab at least 1 cm (0.5 inch) inside each nostril and firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab and leaving in place for 10 to 15 seconds in each nostril. Sample both nostrils with the same swab.
  - Place swab in the **viral media** used for influenza/RSV and break off swab so the cap can be tightened
  - Label the sample with 2 patient identifiers



### REFERENCES:

1. [Vermont Department of Health Advisory - 6/2/2020](#)
2. [CDC SARS-CoV-2 Fact Sheet](#)
3. [UVM Medical Center PPE Guideline](#)