



September 1, 2020

Oregon EMS Directors, and Medical Directors

Emergency Scope of Practice Change

In the event of an emergency declared by the Governor of Oregon, Emergency Medical Service providers may assist in patient care as directed by the supervising physician's standing orders and within the protocols established by the State of Oregon EMS Medical Director during the period of the declared emergency, subject to such limitations and conditions as the Governor or Oregon Medical Board may prescribe.

Under the direction of their supervising physician's, EMTs, advanced EMTs, intermediate EMTs, and Paramedics may perform nasopharyngeal swabs for the testing of infectious disease.

Protocol for specimen collection:

1. Ensure that all infection prevention & control steps are followed.
2. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
3. Insert swab into nostril. (Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.) Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
4. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. (Swab both nostrils with same swab.)
5. Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.
6. Label appropriately
7. Transport and store at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

Please contact us with any questions or visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus.

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