

Test Location	Acceptable Swab Types	Acceptable Transport Media	Unacceptable Transport Media
In-house (Cepheid)	Nasopharyngeal swabs (rayon or dacron swabs with plastic shafts; wired shaft swabs are acceptable). Do not use calcium alginate swabs, swabs with wooden shafts, or swabs in bacterial culture-type liquid or gel transports). Oropharyngeal swabs, nasal swabs, and mid-turbinate swabs are considered acceptable specimen types for use, but are not yet part of VCMC/SPH SOP.	Universal Transport Media (UTM), Viral Transport Media (VTM), saline.	Cannot use transport in a sponge or gel, charcoal medium, anaerobic transport medium. Does NOT accept glass vials.
Public Health	Nasopharyngeal swabs (rayon or dacron swabs with plastic shafts; wired shaft swabs are acceptable). Do not use calcium alginate swabs, swabs with wooden shafts, or swabs in bacterial culture-type liquid or gel transports). Oropharyngeal swabs, nasal swabs, and mid-turbinate swabs are considered acceptable specimen types for use.	3mL of Universal Transport Media (UTM), Viral Transport Media (VTM), or saline. DOES accept glass saline vials.	Cannot use transport in a sponge or gel, charcoal medium, anaerobic transport medium.
Quest	Nasopharyngeal swabs (rayon or dacron swabs with plastic shafts; wired shaft swabs are acceptable. Do not use calcium alginate swabs, swabs with wooden shafts, or swabs in bacterial culture-type liquid or gel transports); anterior nares swabs (puritan 6" sterile standard foam swab w/ polystyrene handle and Copan foam swab single wrapped); mid-turbinate swabs (contoured adult flocked swab with Stopper with 80mm Breakpoint Copan FLOQSwab and MDL NasoSwab).	Universal Transport Media (UTM), Viral Transport Media (VTM), saline (3mL vial preferred, 1mL vial should only be used if 3mL not available); Amies medium, cepheid xpert sample collection kit, M4, M4RT, M5, M6, Starplex multitrans.	Cannot use transport in a sponge or gel, charcoal medium, anaerobic transport medium. No glass tubes or snap cap tubes are accepted. Tubes with clot activator are also not acceptable.

UTM, VTM, and saline are acceptable transport media at all three locations. UTM and VTM appear pink in the vial. Saline appears clear. Flu swabs are acceptable NP swabs for all three locations. The following NP swabs and transport media are universally acceptable:

