# COVID-19 Swab Differences for POC and Standard COVID Testing

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<th>Test</th>
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| **COVID-19 standard test** | 1 Nasopharyngeal swabs (preferred)                  | Gently advance swab straight back and down along nasal floor into nasopharynx until resistance met (see video for technique).  
• Spin swab several times for 10 – 15 seconds.  
Withdraw and place into viral transport medium. |
| 2 Mid-turbinate swab (if NPS not available) | Direct midturbinate swab straight back along the nasal floor until the stopper hits the nostril.  
• Spin swab several times for 10 – 15 seconds  
• Repeat with the same swab on the other side.  
Place MTS swab in viral transport medium. |
| **COVID point of care (POC test)** | 3 Foam tipped oral-nasal swab (comes with the POC test) | Direct nasal swab. Insert nasal swab into the nostril with the most drainage or congestion.  
• Gently insert swab, until resistance is met (near the level of the nasal turbinates, less than one inch into nostril).  
• Rotate the swab against the nasal wall several times and gently remove the swab.  
• Using the same swab, repeat sample collection in the other nostril.  
• Perform POCT immediately if on a unit with an ID NOW test device.  
If no test device on unit, place swab back into sterile wrapper, label wrapper with patient label, date/time/initials of collector and place dry swab in wrapper in specimen biohazard bag. Call for runner to deliver sample to micro ASAP. |