



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**

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Test Order

SARS-COV-2 and Influenza A and B

Synonym(s)	Covid-19 and Influenza A and B
Methodology	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	A. Lower respiratory tract: Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, and sputum. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container B. Upper respiratory tract: Nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab, nasal-mid turbinate and anterior nares, nasal pharyngeal wash/aspirate, or nasal wash aspirate. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts in sterile tubes containing 2-3 ml of viral transport media.
Transport / Collection Medium	Universal (or viral) transport medium (UTM or VTM)
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Store at 2 – 8°C for up to 72 hours. If a specimen is frozen at ≤-70°C, ship overnight on dry ice. Follow shipping regulations for UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B when sending potential SARS-CoV-2 or influenza virus specimens.
Minimum Volume Required	2 mL
Additional Collection Instructions	
Additional Required Information	Date of collection and 2 patient identifiers are required.
Send Out?	
Turnaround Time	24-48 hours.
Testing Restrictions	
Requisition Form(s)	https://www.sfcDCP.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FINAL-DPH-Lab-COVID-Requisition-Form-2020.4.10.pdf
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Please refer to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for more additional acceptable specimen types and for more information: Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)