Aptima® & Panther Fusion® Specimen Collection

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Clinician collection procedure guide*

For COVID testing with nasal wash/aspirate and lower respiratory tract specimens¹



Nasal wash/aspirate specimen

Attach catheter to suction apparatus.

Have the patient sit with head tilted slightly backward.



Instill 1-1.5 mL of non-bacteriostatic saline (pH 7.0) into one nostril.



Insert the tubing into the nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards). Catheter should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of ear. Begin gentle suction/aspiration and remove catheter while rotating it gently.



Use label to provide a unique identification for the specimen.



Lower respiratory tract – Bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial wash specimen

Collect 2-3 mL into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap collection cup or sterile dry container.

Due to the increased technical skill and equipment needs, collection of specimens from the lower respiratory tract may be limited to patients presenting with more severe disease, including people admitted to the hospital and/or fatal cases.



Use label to provide a unique identification for the specimen.

References: 1. CDC. Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Guidelines for Clinical Specimens. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens. html. Published May 7, 2020. Accessed Date May 10, 2020.

hologic.com | diagnostic.solutions@hologic.com | 1.888.484.4747

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