

## COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines

Pre-authorization **and** epidemiology consultation must be obtained before specimens can be submitted to the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories (ISDHL) and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Unauthorized specimens will **NOT** be accepted for testing.

- For patients meeting the [COVID-19 Case Definition](#), consultation and testing authorization is available at 317 233-7125 (317-233-1325 after hours).

Upon authorization, the facility will be given an authorization number that should be included in the “Provider Information” section of the *Virology* LimsNet form under Influenza Sentinel Physician Number. **All unauthorized specimens will not be tested.**

- To sign up for LimsNet, call the LIMS Help Desk 317-921-5506.
- If LimsNet is unavailable, use the [Virology Request Form](#)

### Specimen Collection:

Click here for further information about collection guidelines: [Specimens](#)

#### *Specimen Types:*

1. Nasopharyngeal swab
2. Oropharyngeal swab
3. Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid OR sputum
4. Serum

### Shipping:

Authorized specimens should be [shipped Category B](#), on cold packs, to:

**Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories**  
**Attn: Virology – COVID-19**  
**550 W. 16th St., Suite B**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**

- Specimens arriving at ISDHL during normal business hours between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. M-F will be shipped priority overnight to CDC. Specimens received after hours on Friday will be shipped the following Monday, except as authorized by the CDC.
- CDC testing results will only be reported back to ISDHL. ISDHL will then relay the report to the submitter via LimsNet. It will be the responsibility of the submitter to relay all laboratory results to the patient’s healthcare provider.

**Please call 317-921-5500 or email [isdh-lab-info@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:isdh-lab-info@isdh.IN.gov) for more information.**