



Viral Transport Medium (VTM) Supplies Needed

A shortage of coronavirus testing supplies is creating a bottleneck for patients needing to be tested and dermatologists are encouraged to consider donations of extra supplies. Equipment is on backorder in many areas of the country, but supply shortages vary by region. Some of this equipment is used by dermatologists in their offices to test patients for herpes virus or cutaneous MRSA infection, including viral transport medium (VTM) and nasopharyngeal swabs. Many laboratories that conduct SARS-CoV-2 testing need these supplies, including hospital based and commercial labs.

The FDA believes that a nasopharyngeal specimen is the preferred choice for swab-based SARS-CoV-2 testing, and a flocked swab is preferred. The FDA is also currently allowing saline transfer medium in lieu of the usual approved VTM, however not all labs and testing equipment are prepared for this.

We are encouraging dermatologists that may have extra VTM or NP swabs in their offices to contact the following and offer donation of any available supplies:

- Their local public health department
- Their local hospital-based testing site
- Their local laboratory processing SARS-CoV-2 testing

This is a challenging period for the world and these efforts will assist in coping with the demand.

Below is a list of individually wrapped swabs. All swabs are flocked unless noted:

- Puritan Nasopharyngeal swabs: 25-3317-H, 25-1406 1PF 50f, 25-800 1PD 50**, 25-3320-U, 25-3320-H EMB 80, 25-3320-U EMB 80, 25-3320-H EMB 100 and 25-3320-U EMB 100
- Copan Nasopharyngeal swabs: 503CS01, 518CS01, and 501CS01, 502CS01
- BD Nasopharyngeal swabs: 220252 and 220251
- DHI/Quidel Nasopharyngeal swabs: 503CS01.DHI
- Fisher Healthcare Nasopharyngeal swabs: 23600952, 23600956 and 23600950 Puritan Oropharyngeal swabs: 25-1506 1PF SOLID^f, 25-1506 1PF 100^f, 25-3206-H, 25-3206-U, 25-3706-H, 25-806 1PD** and 25-806 1PD BT**
- Copan Oropharyngeal swabs: 502CS01, 519CS01, 164KS01**, 167KS01**, 170KS01** and 175KS01**
- BD Oropharyngeal swabs: 220250
- Fisher Healthcare Oropharyngeal swabs: 23600950, 23600957, 1490641**, 1490640** and 1490650**

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- Additional sterile flocked swabs from Puritan that may be used: 25-3316-U, 25-3316-H, 25-3317-U, 25-3318-U, 25-3318-H, 25-3320-U, 25-3320-H and 25-3319-H

^f Foam swab

** Polyester swab

VTM/UTM remains the preferred transport media. Examples of universal transport media for viruses and molecular transport media are listed here. All the products listed below include a nasopharyngeal (NP) flocked swab unless noted otherwise.

- Copan: 305C, 307C, 360C and 519CS01*
- Puritan: UT-367, UT-317, UT-302*, UT-366** and UT-300***
- Hardy/Healthlink: 330CHL
- BD: 220526, 220527, 220258*, 220529, 220531 DHI/Quidel: 330C.
- DHI and 503CS01.DHI
- Fisher Healthcare: 23001718, 23600952, 23600956, 23600950 and 23600957*
- PrimeStore MTM: LH-1-02 and LH-1-03***

* flocked oropharyngeal swab

** Polyester swab

*** no swab

References:

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html> - CDC guidelines for specimen collection have been updated to adjust for the shortages.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Viral-Transport-Medium.pdf> - CDC Standard Operating Procedure for Creating Viral Transport Medium