



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
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## Test Order

### SARS-COV-2 and Influenza A and B Real-time PCR (lower respiratory specimens only)

Synonym(s)	COVID-19 PCR
Methodology	CDC FLU/SC2 Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	A. <b>Lower respiratory tract:</b> Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate and sputum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container</li></ul>
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.
Minimum Volume Required	2 mL
Additional Collection Instructions	Additional specimen types (e.g., stool, urine) may be collected and stored at -70°C until CDC decides whether additional specimen sources should be tested.
Additional Required Information	Collection date required.
Send Out?	Yes
Turnaround Time	Upon CDC notification
Testing Restrictions	
Requisition Form(s)	<a href="https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/DPH-LAB-COVID-Requisition-Form-Version-6.1.2023.pdf">https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/DPH-LAB-COVID-Requisition-Form-Version-6.1.2023.pdf</a>
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Please refer to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for more additional acceptable specimen types and for more information: <a href="#">Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)</a>

Updated 11-21-2024