

Sampling Guide

This guidance explains how to obtain **nasopharyngeal and throat samples for mariPOC testing**. The accuracy of rapid tests and especially sensitivity is highly dependent on the quality of sampling. Only flocked swabs are recommended for sample collection.

Nasopharyngeal samples are suitable for these tests



- Respi+
- Respi
- SARS-CoV-2
- Quick Flu/RSV
- Quick Flu+

Throat samples are suitable for these tests



- Pharyn
- Quick StrepA

Recommended flocked swabs

Swab type	Copan	MWE
For nasopharyngeal sampling ▶ Medium size	503CS01	MW812
	501CS01	MW813
	516CS01 (<small><6 months old</small>)	MW819
For throat sampling ▶ Large size	502CS01	MW810
	519CS01	MW811
	520CS01	MW817

According to the size of the patient, choose the largest swab possible to obtain a sample of the highest quality. Copan flocked swabs have been clinically validated for the mariPOC® test system. The flocked swabs by Medical Wire (MWE) are technically suitable but their performance in clinical diagnostics has not yet been studied extensively. Additional information of other technically compatible sampling swabs can be requested from the manufacturer or manufacturer's representative.

Nasopharyngeal swab sampling

Respi+, Respi, SARS-CoV-2, Quick Flu/RSV, Quick Flu+

1 Before sampling

- Use only nylon flocked swabs for sampling.
- Ask the patient to blow their nose before the sampling if possible.

Nasopharyngeal sampling position



Adults

Adults should be positioned so that it is not possible to pull back the head while sampling. The head should be tilted backwards. The head may be held still by holding the chin, forehead or supporting it from the back. The sampling depth should be at least 8-12 cm.



Children

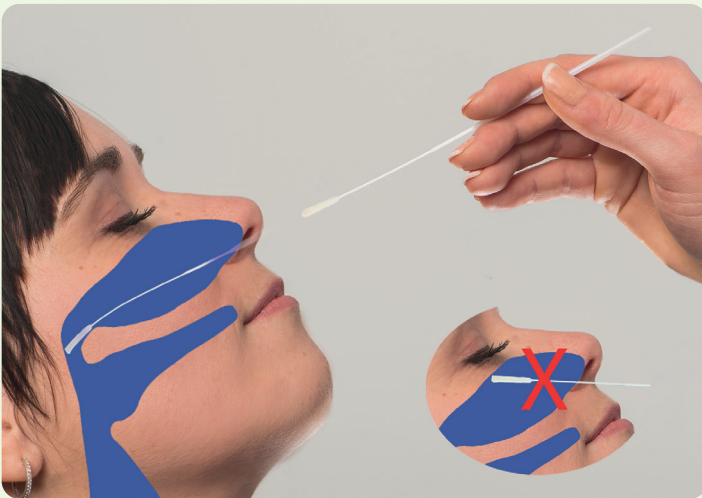
Small children may sit on the lap of the parent or an assisting nurse. The assistant should brace the child around the shoulders and arms with one arm, and use the other arm to hold the child's head slightly tilted backwards. If necessary the child's legs may be placed between the assistant legs. The sampling depth should be at least 4-8 cm.

Other sample types

- ✓ Nasopharyngeal aspirates are suitable.
- ✗ A swab dipped in an aspirate sample is not considered as a swab sample.
- ✗ Nasopharyngeal washings are not suitable as they tend to be too dilute for rapid antigen testing.

2 Sample collection

- Insert the swab swiftly into the nostril parallel to the palate.
- If resistance is met after a few centimetres, adjust the angle of the swab and try again.
- Once the swab is in the sampling depth, rotate it several times properly against the mucosal surface to dislodge epithelial cells.
- Remove the swab.



3 Sample processing

- Use scissors to cut the swab into a sample tube 1-2 cm from the nylon head of the swab.
- Disinfect the scissors between samples using 70% ethanol or equivalent.
- Analyse samples immediately if possible or transport/store at +4°C (short-term storage) or -20°C (long-term storage).



Throat swab sampling

Pharyn, Quick StrepA

1 Before sampling

- Use only nylon flocked swabs for sampling. Throat sampling should be done with rigid shafted, large swabs.
- Antiseptic throat tablets and mouthwashes should be avoided.
- It is recommended that the patient does not drink for at least half an hour before the throat swab collection.

2 Sample collection

- Press the tongue down with a spatula or hold it with fingers and a gauze.
- Roll the swab on the tonsils and the posterior wall of the oropharynx with enough pressure to dislodge cells from the mucosal surface.
- Ensure that the sample is not contaminated by the normal flora of the mouth by avoiding contact with other surfaces, such as the tongue and cheeks.



3 Sample pretreatment

- Use scissors to cut the swab into a sample tube 1-2 cm from the nylon head of the swab.
- Disinfect the scissors between samples using 70% ethanol or equivalent.
- Analyse samples immediately if possible or transport/store at +4°C (short-term storage) or -20°C (long-term storage).