



# Suspected COVID-19 cases

## Which samples should be taken?

### Diagnostic samples for suspected cases



#### 1. Upper respiratory tract sample options:

- a single swab used for throat then nose in one collection tube containing transport medium OR
- a nose and a throat swab combined into one collection tube containing transport medium OR
- nasopharyngeal aspirate in a universal transport pot



#### 2. Lower respiratory tract sample in universal container (sputum) if obtainable.

#### If the patient is admitted, take a sample for acute serology:

5mL in either serum tube or plain (no additive) tube.  
For children <12 years, 1mL is acceptable.



#### 3. Send to your nominated PHE laboratory.

For how to  
package samples,  
see sample  
packaging for  
PHE poster

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-guidance-for-clinical-diagnostic-laboratories](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-guidance-for-clinical-diagnostic-laboratories)

