Suspected COVID-19 cases
Which samples should be taken?

Diagnostic samples for suspected cases

1. Upper respiratory tract sample options:
   - individual nose and throat swabs in separate collection tubes OR
   - combined nose and throat swab in one collection tube containing universal transport medium OR
   - single swab used for throat then nose OR
   - nasopharyngeal aspirate.

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