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