



ADVISORY

ON COLLECTION OF NPS/OPS SWABS

FROM PATIENTS

FOR REFERRAL TO SLH-SNL (COVID-19 TESTING)

Nasopharyngeal/Oropharyngeal Swab (NPS/OPS) Specimens may be collected for COVID-19 testing from the following individuals/patients:

- (1) With acute with respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough and shortness of breath).
- (2) With a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset
- (3) With any acute respiratory illness and having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to onset
- (4) With severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath and patients requiring hospitalization) and in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation
- (5) A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory

Moreover, NPS/OPS may be collected from a CONTACT, which refers to a person who experienced any of the following exposures during 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case. He/she had:

- a) Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case with 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes;
- b) Direct physical contact with probable or confirmed case;
- c) Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment;

Other situations as indicated by local risk assessment.