

# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING SPECIMENS TO CDC FOR LABORATORY TESTING FOR SARS-CoV-2

This document provides supplemental guidance regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping to CDC laboratories in addition to the guidance available on CDC's website regarding [infection prevention and control in healthcare settings](#); [biosafety for specimen handling](#); and [specimen collection, storage, and shipping](#).

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND LABELING

**All specimens must be labeled with:**

- Patient (or contact) date of birth
- CDC or state-generate nCoV ID (formerly PUI ID)
- Specimen type
- Date collected

## 50.34/DASH DOCUMENTATION AND SUBMISSION

**Each specimen must be accompanied by a completed CDC Form 50.34 (AKA DASH form).**

<https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/pdf/form-50-34.pdf>

**Do NOT fill in form by hand. Drop downs MUST be used if they exist.**

Select the Specimen Origin to Begin the Form  
 **CDC SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM: SPECIMENS OF HUMAN ORIGIN**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>LABORATORY EXAMINATION REQUESTED</b></p> <p>Test order name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Test order code: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Suspected Agent: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Date sent to CDC: <input type="text"/></p> <p>At CDC, bring to the attention of: <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p><b>PATIENT INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Patient Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Birth date: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Sex: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Age: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Clinical Diagnosis: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Date of onset: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Fatal: <input type="text"/></p> | <p><b>STATE PHL / NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; MENTAL HYGIENE / FEDERAL AGENCY / INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION / PEACE CORPS</b></p> <p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Institution name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Street address: <input type="text"/></p> <p>City: <input type="text"/></p> <p>State: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Country: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Fax: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Point of Contact: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Patient ID: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Specimen ID: <input type="text"/></p> |
|--|--|

State Public Health Lab Patient ID      nCoV ID  
State Public Health Lab Specimen ID      nCov ID – Specimen type identifier

**Patient information on the specimen tube and 50.34/DASH form must match exactly to prevent delays.**

**Confirm prioritized items below were electronically entered in the 50.34/DASH in proper location displayed above:**

- State Public Health Lab Patient ID
- State Public Health Lab Specimen ID
- CDC or state-generated nCoV ID (i.e. 0001021 or NC101847794)

**Complete the remaining required fields in the 50.34/DASH:**

- Patient first name and last name
- Patient date of birth
- State Public Health Laboratory contact information including full name, title, complete mailing address, email address, telephone, and fax number of the submitter
- Specimen collected date
- Specimen source (type)
- State of Illness

In the upper left-hand corner of the form, to ensure proper routing:

- For “**Test order name**”, select “Respiratory virus molecular detection (non-influenza)” (CDC-10401)
- For “**Suspected Agent**”, select “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)”

You must include the 50.34/DASH form in the package and send a **secure** email with the 50.34/DASH form to: [vtw6@cdc.gov](mailto:vtw6@cdc.gov), [zbg7@cdc.gov](mailto:zbg7@cdc.gov), [DSRstat@cdc.gov](mailto:DSRstat@cdc.gov), [eocevent185@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent185@cdc.gov), [eocevent331@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent331@cdc.gov), [eocevent177@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent177@cdc.gov)

**Include tracking number and nCoV IDs in the body of the email.**

## SPECIMEN SHIPPING

**Specimens can be received at CDC seven days a week, but the specific instructions below should be followed for weekend deliveries in order to ensure receipt.**

### Monday – Thursday Shipments:

Ship overnight using your usual courier such as FedEx or UPS to the following address:

**ATTN: STATT Lab: COVID 2019**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**1600 Clifton Road, NE**  
**Atlanta, Georgia, 30333**  
**Telephone: 404-639-3931**  
**Email: [dsrstat@cdc.gov](mailto:dsrstat@cdc.gov)**

### Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday shipments:

- Email the following information to CDC IMS Logistics Transportation ([eocevent306@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent306@cdc.gov)) and CDC IMS Logistics Section Chief (CDC) ([eoclogchief@cdc.gov](mailto:eoclogchief@cdc.gov))
  - Name and contact information for the person who will be handing the package to the courier
  - Address of where the package will be picked up
  - Estimated time the package will be ready
  - Number, rough dimensions, and rough weight of the package(s)
  - Whether package contains cold pack, dry ice, or other
  - CDC nCoV ID or state generated nCoV ID
- Email the above information to CDC IMS Logistics Transportation ([eocevent306@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent306@cdc.gov)) and CDC IMS Logistics Section Chief (CDC) ([eoclogchief@cdc.gov](mailto:eoclogchief@cdc.gov))
- Call the CDC Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) to arrange weekend-specific overnight specimen logistics. Please indicate that the call is about coronavirus specimen shipping and please have the CDC nCoV ID or state generated nCoV ID number.

## PREPARING SPECIMENS FOR SHIPMENT

**For specimens stored at 2-8°C, all laboratory testing must occur within 72 hours of collection. If a delay in shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below. Refrigerated specimens received outside of this 72 hour window will be rejected.**

Specimens should be packed according to [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) regulations](#). SARS-CoV-2 specimens should be packed in compliance with regulations for [UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B](#). A [packaging checklist](#) is available for reference. For specific instructions, refer to CDC’s [Packing, Shipping, and Transport guidance](#) (last section).

Version 1.2, March 9, 2020