



Medical Directive

Directive Number	20-05
Publish Date	March 13 2020
Effective Date	March 13 2020
Subject	<u>Collecting Nasopharyngeal & Oropharyngeal Swabs</u>
Update to Clinical Procedures	

Credentialed PL 1	Information
Credentialed PL 2	Action
Credentialed PL 3	Action
Credentialed PL 4	Action
Credentialed PL 5	Action
Credentialed PL 6	Action
Credentialed EMD	Information

Colleagues,

This medical directive is in support of our response to COVID-19. This medical directive adds the ability for providers to collect nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs. The clinical procedure for collecting these specimens accompanies this medical directive. This is an action item for credential PL2 through PL6 providers and should be read in its entirety. It is informational for credentialed PL1 and EMD providers.

The breadth of how this procedure is educated, operationalized, and communicated will vary and be based on decisions from your department leadership, OMD, and public health officials.

The procedure for collecting a nasopharyngeal swab is commonly used to test for illnesses such as influenza, which you may have experienced or observed.

The procedure for collecting an oropharyngeal swab is commonly used to test for illnesses such as strep throat, which you may have experienced or observed.

Information and resources pertaining to COVID-19 and Infection Prevention can be found on OMD's website - <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/office-medical-director> as well as Austin Public Health - <http://www.austintexas.gov/COVID19>.

Questions can be sent to EMScogs@austintexas.gov

Thank you for all that you do,

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