



# 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

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-guidance-for-clinical-diagnostic-laboratories](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-guidance-for-clinical-diagnostic-laboratories)

