

Guidance for Local Health Departments and Emergency Managers for COVID-19 Specimen Shipping

March 13, 2020

The following is guidance for local public health departments and county emergency managers for acquiring the needed material for the collection and shipping of COVID-19 related specimens to the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL).

The following supplies are needed to collect and ship specimens:

- 1 Cold shipper w/ Refrigerate and Category B labels
- 2 Ice packs
- 2 – 3 mL Vials of viral transport media (VTM)
- 2 Nasopharyngeal Swabs (The swabs CANNOT be of cotton or wooden shaft – only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts)
- 1 Zip-close biohazard bag
- 1 95 kPa bags
- 2 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Approval Forms



Typical vendors for the swabs and transport media, which are generally the most challenging to acquire, are:

- Fisher Scientific
- VWR Laboratory Supplies

KHEL also has a very limited amount of collection and shipping kits available that may be requested by using the form at this link:

http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/cust_serv/download/specimen_kit_request_form.pdf