

KDHE COVID-19 Whole Genome Sequencing Specimen Submission Instructions

- A raw specimen is defined as any specimen that has come directly from the patient
 - Nasopharyngeal/Nasal mid-turbinate swab in VTM or Quiksal saliva specimens are acceptable raw submission types
 - *Aptima collection devices are not currently acceptable for sequencing*
- Extracted RNA specimen submission is available for laboratories that do in-house PCR testing
 - Please provide the associated SARS-CoV-2 Ct score along with the extracted nucleic acid
 - Please contact KDHE.KHEL_Help@ks.gov for further instructions regarding RNA extract submissions

Raw specimens should be logged in through LabXchange

- E-mail KDHE.KHEL_Help@ks.gov for account setup and instructions
- Entries should be made under one of the following Test Types (as applicable):
 - Covid + Flu A/B Nasal
 - Covid + Flu A/B Nasopharyngeal
 - COVID QuikSal Saliva
- Any of the above Test Types will be ran for PCR testing at the KDHE Laboratory and viable specimens (high enough viral load) will be sequenced based on the following criteria:
 1. Vaccination breakthrough
 2. Patient is hospitalized
 3. Patient is deceased
 4. Specimen comes from a county with low testing/sequencing numbers
 5. Specimen comes from a county with low vaccination rate
 6. Everything else that does not meet the above criteria
- LabXchange will ask for patient demographics and additional required information
- Collect specimen and label the tube with patient information and the LabXchange barcode number
- **Print the LabXchange submission form and include it in the side pouch of the specimen transport bag**
- A handwritten submission form is available at kdheks.gov/Labs
 - *Please only use this in rare situations where you cannot access LabXchange*

Extracted specimen submission instructions

- Log the specimens into *LabOnline*
 - Contact KDHE.KHEL_Help@ks.gov for account setup and instructions
- CT value is required for extracted specimen submission
 - If your testing instrument does not provide CT values, a raw specimen will be required

Shipping instructions

- Store specimens at 2-8°C until sent to Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories
- Specimens must be received within 72 hours of specimen collection
- Package specimens in an insulated shipping container
- Ensure there are adequate ice packs to keep specimens cool and packing material to keep specimens secure if applicable
- Ship via courier or overnight UPS/FedEx to:
 - Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories**
 - 6810 SE Dwight St**
 - Topeka, KS 66620**