Please Note:

Do not use swabs that contain calcium alginate or swabs with wooden shafts or cotton swabs.
- These swab types may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.

Preferred Collection Supplies:
- Synthetic fiber swabs (flocked swabs) with plastic or aluminum shafts (similar swabs for other viral tests such as flu, measles, RVP).
- Sterile tube with 2-3 mL viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM).

Alternate Swab Types:
- E-Swab by Copan with regular or flex minitip (481C or 482C).
- Opti-Swab by Puritan (LA-117).
- HydraFlock by Puritan (25-3317-H).

Alternate Transport Media:
- Liquid Amies media.

What If None of the Above Are Available?
*If the above are not available, the following could be used to collect and transport samples for molecular RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 assays:
- Dry swab in 1-3 mL of saline or phosphate buffered saline in a sterile glass or plastic vial.
- Copan: 501CS01, 503CS01, 516CS01, 518CS01 and 534CS01.
- A sterile foam swab or sterile spun synthetic swab is acceptable.
- If the applicator handle requires additional trimming, the trimming should be performed with a sterile pair of scissors to prevent contamination of the sample.

Specimen Storage:
Swab should be stored between 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.

For the Most Up-to-Date Information:
Tennessee Department of Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

*Swab recommendations are based on limited available evidence, and expert opinion suggested further research was needed in this area.