



CPHLN/RLSPC

The Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network

Recommended Specimens for the Diagnosis of SARS CoV*

Test	Specimens
SARS CoV PCR	-Nasopharyngeal swab in virus transport medium ¹ -Stool or rectal swab in sterile container -Lower respiratory tract specimens, (BAL, sputum, lung biopsy if collected).
SARS Serology	-Acute and convalescent serum. If no seroconversion after 14 or 21 days, collect a third specimen after 28 days.
Autopsy Specimens for SARS CoV PCR	-Lung, bowel, spleen, lymph nodes. <u>FRESH FROZEN</u> : DO NOT place autopsy specimens for SARS CoV PCR in formalin.

*Repeat samples should be collected at 7-10 days on patients where SARS CoV is strongly suspected but initial PCR results are negative, and no other etiology has been identified.

¹nasopharyngeal aspirates may also be used.
