



## ACULABS – RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION – SPECIMEN BAGGING INSTRUCTIONS

**05/01/20 NOTE:** ALL SPECIMEN BAGS FOR COVID-19 AND OTHER RESPIRATORY SPECIMEN WILL BE EITHER: **PURPLE**, **BLUE**, OR **GREEN**. ALL OTHER SPECIMEN BAGS WILL BE **CLEAR**.

1. Refer to the “**Aculabs Protocol for Specimen Collection Shortages in wake of COVID-19 Outbreak**” to know what kind of swab should be used in the specimen collection process.
2. With the appropriate swab chosen, follow the instructions included in the guide on how to collect the respiratory specimen based on the specific swab being used.
3. Once respiratory specimen is collected, ensure the swab **is labeled** with patient name.
4. **Ensure cap has been tightly secured onto the swab. Swabs that are leaking will not be run and the bag not opened.**  
*05/01/20: (Do not send COVID-19 or resp. specimen on ice, ice packs or on anything that can melt in the bag that can make it seem like there is a leak.)*
5. Once the swab **is labeled**, open the zip-lock at the top of the specimen bag (see: right) and place swab into the bag.
6. Ensure the zip-lock is fully and securely closed.
7. Write patient name – again – on the **back** of the specimen bag, making sure you write the name **below** the “tear line”.
8. Once the bag has been sealed and properly labeled, the specimen can be left at room temperature if set to be picked up that day. If set to be picked up in 24 hours, specimen should be left in the specimen fridge for phlebotomist to grab.

**\*\*Note:** Please do not double-bag the specimen.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

\*Facilities can also refer to <http://www.aculabs.com/support-home/aculabs-response-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/> for more information and current updates on acceptable specimen collection and other current notices.

