



UPDATE: COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 PCR TESTING

Ascend performs SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing in-house using the SARS-CoV-2 assay from Abbott Laboratories, on the Alinity m[®] instrument. COVID-19 Swab Kits are now available to order in LabCheck.

The Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 assay is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) test intended for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in nasal swabs. This assay is authorized by FDA under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 PCR	
Specimen	Anterior Nares Swab 
Container Type	Universal Transport Media  Align label towards bottom of tube
Stability (2-8°C)	2 days
Turnaround Time	1-2 days
Methodology	Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-qPCR)
Reference Range	Negative
Transport Temperature	Refrigerate 2-8°C
CPT Code	87635 or HCPCS U00004/U0005

Notes/Action Required:

- Order COVID-19 Swab Kits in LabCheck.
- Place each specimen in a separate biohazard transport bag and ship with your refrigerated Ascend specimens.
- Refer to [Ascend Reference Manual](#) for proper collection, packaging/shipping instructions.
- Due to short stability, do not collect on Saturdays.
- Expected turnaround time is 1-2 days after receipt (may be impacted due to demand).
- If your EMR requires mapping of this result, please provide the following interface codes:
 - Specimen Source: 1730-SRC2
 - SARS-CoV-2 RNA, QL: 1729-CVPC1

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at 800.800.5655, Option 1