



# Technical Bulletin

## New Molecular Transport Media for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) For Testing at DLS Central Facility

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**TO:** Medical Staff and Clients

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**DATE:** November 25, 2020

**SUBJECT:** New PCR collection kits for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) for testing at DLS Central Only

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Effective November 30, 2020, DLS will begin distributing COVID-19 collection kits with a new transport media that quickly inactivates microbes like SARS-COV-2, but also preserves nucleic acids, which PCR is designed to detect. This helps alleviate the shortage of collection kits, and is ideal for asymptomatic COVID only screens such as travelers, students, and employees. It is compatible with test system at DLS Central ONLY, and NOT with hospital test systems (e.g., Cepheid GeneXpert, BD Max, Abbott ID Now, and Roche Liat).

At this time, these kits should NOT be used with symptomatic patients in which **other testing** such as Influenza and RSV is needed. Validation of this media for **influenza and RSV is underway** and should be available soon for **symptomatic outpatients**. This media is NOT compatible for testing with BioFire Film Array multiplex panels or virus culture.

### There are no changes to the test codes:

Test:	SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) performed at Central ONLY
DLS Order code:	7179 or 7223 (non-medical)
Specimen:	Nasopharyngeal, Oropharyngeal, or nasal swabs.
Transport/Stability:	Room Temperature (or refrigerated) for 72 HOURS <b>or Frozen at -70°F</b>
Turnaround time:	< 3 days (normally 12-36 hours from receipt in the lab) Clients will be notified of a “Detected” result

It is important to remember that even if a patient is suspected to have SARS-CoV-2, rapid testing for other common organisms such as influenza remains an integral part of the workup process. Validation of this media for influenza and RSV is underway at DLS Central and should be available soon.

Please refer any questions to DLS Client Services at 589-5101 or Dr. Amy Woron, Manager - DLS Microbiology Lab at 441-5436

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>

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