Specimen Collection for Suspected COVID-19 Patient

I. Applicable patients – Patients who have received a referral or order from a clinician (primary care, local health department, medical control physician) for specimen collection while under quarantine or isolation.

II. Collection Procedure
   A. Don appropriate PPE
      i. N95 Mask
      ii. Gown
      iii. Gloves
      iv. Eye protection
   B. Place patient in seated position
   C. Tilt patient’s head back slightly to visualize nasal passages
   D. Gently insert swab along septum floor
      i. Stop when resistance is met
      ii. Do not force swab further
   E. Rotate swab several times (keep in passage 10 seconds)
   F. Gently remove swab
   G. Place swab into collection tube according to directions
      i. Place swab into tube before breaking stick
      ii. Tighten cap securely

III. Packaging procedure
   A. Label tube
      i. Patient name
      ii. Patient DOB
      iii. Source
   B. Place tube in plastic bag with absorbent material
   C. Place sample in 95kPa bag
   D. Place bagged sample on ice pack
   E. Follow instructions according to referral source or ordering physician for shipping or delivery.

IV. Key Information
   A. Uncomfortable procedure, be gentle with patient
   B. Questions or issues with packaging should be handled by referral source, according to directions on collection materials provided

Protocol Source/References: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXohAo1d6tk