

COVID-19 Specimen Collection – Authorized Activities

This Guidance Document describes the Kansas Board of EMS' current approach to specimen collection, specific to COVID-19, by EMS providers.

Applicable law

- K.S.A. 65-6144 (a)(17) allows an emergency medical responder to perform “other techniques and devices of preliminary care an emergency medical responder is trained to provide as approved by the board.”
- K.S.A. 65-6121 (a) allows an emergency medical technician to perform “any activities identified in K.S.A. 65-6144, and amendments thereto,”
- K.S.A. 65-6120 (a) allows an advanced emergency medical technician to perform “any activities identified by K.S.A. 65-6121, and amendments thereto;”
- K.S.A. 65-6119 (a) allows a paramedic to “perform all the authorized activities identified in K.S.A. 65-6120, 61-6121, 65-6144, and amendments thereto;”
- K.S.A. 65-6144(a) requires that in order to perform such “other techniques” approved by the Board, an EMS provider must successfully complete an approved course of instruction, local specialized device training, and competency validation and must be authorized by medical protocols or by order when direct communication is maintained by radio, telephone, or video conference monitored by a physician, physician assistant when authorized by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse when authorized by a physician or a professional nurse when authorized by a physician.

The Board's Current Approach to the Applicable Law:

1) Collection of a sample, specific to COVID-19, by EMS providers

The Board considers specimen collection for COVID-19 testing purposes by one of the below-listed methods to be approved as an “other technique of preliminary care,” as set forth in K.S.A. 65-6144(a)(17), and within the authorized activities of all EMS providers.

The Board reserves the right to otherwise enforce K.S.A. 65-6144(a), which requires that in order to perform such “other techniques” an EMS provider must successfully complete an approved course of instruction, local specialized device training, and competency validation and must be authorized by medical protocols or by order when direct communication is maintained by radio, telephone, or video conference monitored by a physician, physician assistant when authorized by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse when authorized by a physician or a professional nurse when authorized by a physician.

Current methods of specimen collection for COVID-19 testing are:

- Nasopharyngeal swab
- Mid-turbinate nasal swab
- Anterior nares nasal swab

- Oropharyngeal swab; and
- Saliva collection.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has developed and provided training videos for healthcare providers for each of the methods of specimen collection on the video tab of the following website: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/170/Healthcare-Providers>

The Board may choose to act at variance with the expressed position of this Guidance Document if it finds there is a reasonable justification for such variance and such justification outweighs the affected person's reliance on this Guidance Document. *See* K.S.A. 77-438(c). This Guidance Document may be withdrawn by the Board at any time without notice.