**Collection of Patient Saliva Samples**

1. Saliva should be collected in the presence of or with assistance from a healthcare professional or laboratory technician.
2. Prior to collection, the healthcare professional or technician must have proper PPE and observed proper hand sanitation with an alcohol-based sanitizer.
3. Collection materials must be appropriately labeled with the correct identifying information (QR code, proper volume indicator).
4. Ideally, water should be avoided 10 minutes prior to collection. Other drinks, food, and nasal sprays should be avoided for half an hour before sample collection. This prevents “additives” from being present in the saliva sample.
5. The patient should begin pooling saliva in their mouth. Saliva production can be stimulated by thinking about food (favorite foods, upcoming meals, etc.) or about the saliva collection itself. **No coughing or sniffing prior to sample collection is required. Saliva samples should not contain phlegm or mucus.**
6. The patient should open the lid of the collection container (e.g., 50mL conical tube) to gently expel saliva into the container until at least 1 mL has been collected, indicated by the black marker line. (The total volume measured is to exclude any bubbles.)
7. Once at least 1 mL has been collected, securely replace the lid of the collection container.
8. Sterilize the container surface with 70% ethanol or a disinfecting wipe and place the sample in a secondary container or an appropriately labeled biohazard bag.