

CDC Guidance on Postmortem Specimen Collection

- If an autopsy is performed:
 - Collection of nasopharyngeal swab (NP swab) and if possible, lung swabs for COVID-19 testing
 - Separate swab specimens for testing of other respiratory pathogens and other postmortem testing, as indicated
 - Formalin-fixed autopsy tissues from lung, upper airway
 - 3 blocks of lung, 2 from upper airway
- CDC's Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch (IDPB) can perform testing for SARS-CoV-2 on fixed autopsy tissue specimens that meet specified criteria on Guidance website. Coordinate through your State Health Department.
- For questions, contact pathology@cdc.gov