



SLPs Performing Nasopharyngeal Swabbing for the Purpose of COVID-19 Testing

SASLPA would like to inform registrants of the Medical Directive approved by Dr. Susan Shaw, Chief Medical Officer on June 15 2021. [This medical directive supports the Saskatchewan Health Authority position on the collection of specimens required to test for COVID-19.](#) Under this medical directive, registered SLPs are being temporarily authorized to collect nasopharyngeal swabs for the purposes of COVID-19 testing when employed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority where training, infrastructure/support and safety measure are in place. Changes to *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Regulations, 1995* which came into effect in 2021 remove the requirement for a licence to perform nasopharyngeal testing for Covid-19.

SASLPA acknowledges that nasopharyngeal swabbing is not part of the typical duties and practice of a Speech-Language Pathologist. In an effort to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, health care professionals may be asked to work in unfamiliar settings and practice outside of their normal duties of work. In addition to the guiding principles in our [Code of Ethics](#), SASLPA would also like to share the [Joint Statement on Professional Accountability During the Pandemic.](#)

As with all professional practice activities, it is the responsibility of the registrant to assess their own level of competence and comfort with any task requested of them. Registrants should also consider the public interest and consider whether additional steps to achieve competence can occur through additional training and/or supports.