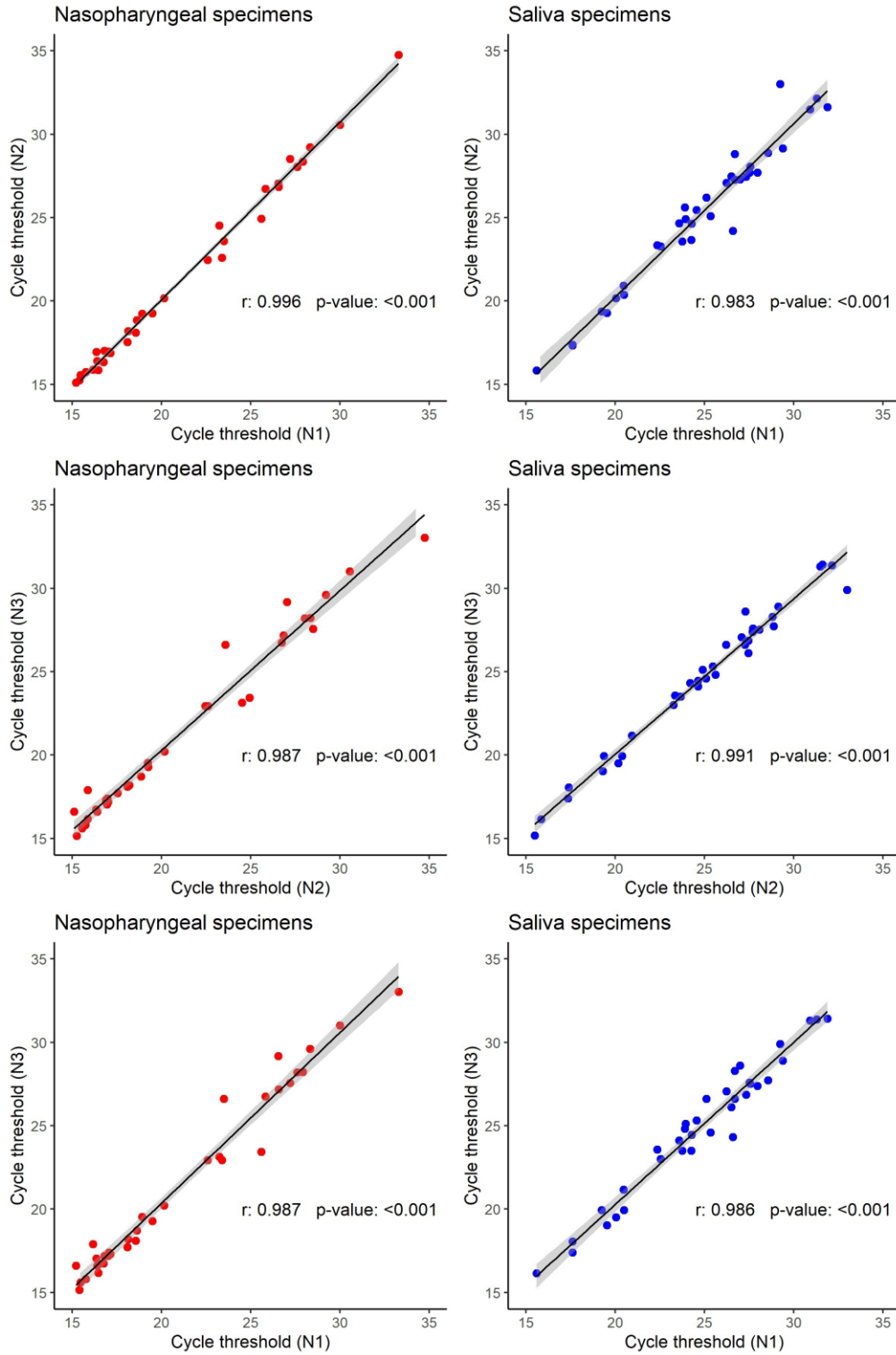


Enhanced Saliva Collection Patient Instructions for Providers

1. Ask the patient if they would be willing to provide a saliva specimen for COVID testing, as we are trying to determine if saliva is an acceptable clinical specimen and offer them the Saliva Testing Fact Sheet for Patients.
2. If they decline, thank them for the consideration and wish them a pleasant day.
3. If they accept, remind them that they will not receive a result from the test on the saliva specimen, but that physician researchers at the Cleveland Clinic will use the information to determine if this is an acceptable specimen type for future patients. Then, provide them with a specimen collection container labeled with their name and medical record number, and give them the following instructions:
 - a. Ask them to please remove any gum or candy, and if gum or candy were present, wait 5 minutes before submitting the saliva specimen.
 - b. They should begin by clearing your nose by “snuffing” or ”snorting” to pull any nasal secretions into their mouth. Tell them not to swallow these secretions, but spit them into the specimen container.
 - c. Similarly, ask them to try to cough to produce any phlegm or secretions. If they can, they should spit these into the specimen container.
 - d. After this, they should continue to spit saliva into the specimen container until it reaches the line marked on the container.
 - i. If they cannot fill the specimen container to the line, just tell them to submit what they can and return it to the caregiver.
4. Thank the patient for participating in this specimen assessment and wish them a pleasant day.
5. Please tightly close the lid on the saliva specimen container, place it in the specimen transport bag with the patient’s nasal/nasopharyngeal swab specimen, and send the specimens together to the laboratory for testing.



Supplementary Figure. This demonstrates the high degree of correlation between the three N gene RT-PCR targets within a specimen type. (Red=NPS specimens; Blue=Saliva specimens).