

# Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Tip Sheet

## Materials Needed:

- 1 swab for NP collection
- 1 tube of viral transport media (common types: M6, M4-RT, sterile PBS)



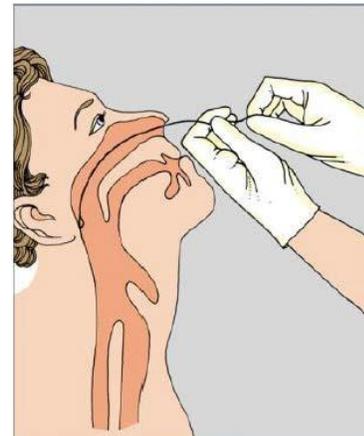
Examples of swabs and viral transport media

7. Remove swab and repeat the same process in the other nostril with the same swab.
8. After the second swab is completed, bend or break handle of swab 1.5-2 inches and immediately place swab into the sterile vial containing the universal transport media.
9. Swab should be entirely enclosed in tube, no wire or shaft should extend past lip of tube. Ensure that cap is closed tightly and label is on tube.
10. Label the tube and place in a biohazard bag, one patient's sample per bag.

## Proper Specimen Collection

The quality of the specimen collection is critical, and the correct collection of the specimen is directly linked to the sensitivity of the test. Follow these steps.

1. Perform hand hygiene before and after patient encounter.
2. Don appropriate PPE.
3. If the patient has nasal congestion or a moderate-large amount of rhinorrhea, ask them to clear their nose into a tissue.
4. Tilt their head back slightly (70 degrees) and ask them to close their eyes, if possible.
5. Insert the swab into the nostril parallel to the palate until resistance is met by contact with the nasopharynx.
6. Leave swab in place for 2-3 seconds then rotate completely around for 10-15 seconds. Note: Although not painful, patients generally feel very uncomfortable with this procedure. Be prepared for them to pull their head and/or body away. This procedure may also generate a cough so prepare to move to the side if possible, especially after completing the process.



## Transport

Transport to laboratory immediately, or transport same day refrigerated or on ice. If delivery is not expected within 24 hours, freeze at -70 degrees C and ship on dry ice.

## Questions

Contact local Clinical Laboratory.