



Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

Revised 6/22/2009

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR COLLECTION:

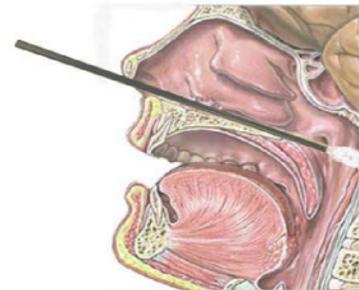
- Dacron or rayon flexible nasopharyngeal swab (Cotton or calcium alginate swabs are **not** acceptable. PCR assays may be inhibited by residues present in these materials.)
- Viral transport media (test tube with screw cap, plastic preferred)
- Gloves (suggested gloves are powder-free)
- Mask for covering nose and mouth of health worker (N95 respirator)
- Facial tissues (for patient use)
- Eye protection/goggles for health worker (to protect from coughs, sneezes, or splashes)
- Gown

PROCEDURE:

1. Follow recommended infection control precautions including putting on N95 respirator, goggles, gown and gloves before proceeding.

2. Have patient sit with head against a wall as patients have a tendency to pull away during this procedure.

3. Insert swab into one nostril straight back (not upwards) and continue along the floor of the nasal passage for several centimeters until reaching the nasopharynx (resistance will be met). The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted. Do not force the swab, if obstruction is encountered before reaching the nasopharynx, remove the swab and try the other side



4. Rotate the swab gently for 5-10 seconds to loosen the epithelial cells.

5. Remove swab and immediately inoculate viral transport media by inserting the swab at least 1/2 inch below the surface of the media. Bend or clip the swab handle to fit the transport medium tube and reattach the cap securely. A dry swab is NOT acceptable for PCR testing.

6. Specimen should be transported at refrigerator temperature and received by laboratory as soon as possible and within 5 days from time of collection.