

# COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal (NP) Specimen Collection

## ACUTE AND AMBULATORY

Updated 05/27/2020

### 1 Don appropriate PPE

NP swab collection is an aerosolizing procedure.

Follow guidelines for airborne / contact PPE:

- PAPR or N95 respirator
- Face shield (preferred) or goggles
- Gloves
- Fluid-impervious gown



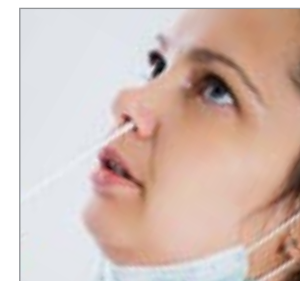
### 2 Explain and prepare for procedure

- Instruct the patient to sit erect, facing you.
- Provide a tissue and ask the patient to blow their nose to clear the nasal passages.
- Open the package without contaminating the swab.
- Ensure media tube is within reach.



### 3 Collect the specimen

- Measure the distance from patient's nose to the ear with the swab
- Mark the swab shaft
- Tilt head backwards slightly
- Insert swab through one nostril straight back (NOT upwards) along the floor of the nasal passage up to the measured distance on the swab shaft or until resistance is met.
- Rotate swab for 10 seconds and slowly withdraw swab with a rotating motion.
- Specimens can be collected from both sides using same swab. If the mini-tip is visibly saturated with fluid from first collection it is not necessary to collect from the second side.



### 4 Prepare the specimen

- Remove the cap from the sterile culture tube, insert the swab into the transport medium and break the swab on the score line.
- Close the tube tightly. Check that the cap is secure and threaded correctly.
- Label the tube with patient's full name, DOB, collection date, time and specimen type (NP or Nasopharyngeal).



Label the tube:

- Patient's full name
- DOB
- Collection date
- Time
- Specimen type

Do not send COVID-19 specimen in the tube system.

### 5 Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene.



[Training video for nasopharyngeal swab](#)