

# Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

1. Assemble equipment.
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Facial tissue
  - Sealable biohazard bags
  - Collection pack; containing flexible mini tip flocked NP swab and Universal Transport Medium (red capped tube)
2. Open collection pack.
3. Perform hand hygiene and don PPE.
4. Remove excess mucus from patient's nose with facial tissue.
5. Position patient as shown in image below.
6. Gently insert the NP flocked swab into the nostril until it reaches the posterior nares.
  - Note: The distance between the tip of the nose and the tragus of the ear provides a proper estimate of how deep the NP flocked swab is inserted.



7. Rotate the NP flocked swab gently against the NP mucosa for 10 to 15 seconds.
8. Gently remove the NP flocked swab.
9. Place the NP flocked swab into the transport tube all the way to the bottom of the tube.
10. Holding the NP flocked swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint indication line. Hold the tube opening away from your face.
11. Cap the tube following sample collection.
12. Label specimen container at bedside per the Specimen/Requisition Labeling policy and place in biohazard bag.
13. Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene.
14. Deliver specimen promptly to laboratory.
  - Note: If the interval between specimen collection and delivery to the laboratory is longer than one (1) hour, place specimen in refrigerator until courier arrives.
  - Send on a cold ice pack.