

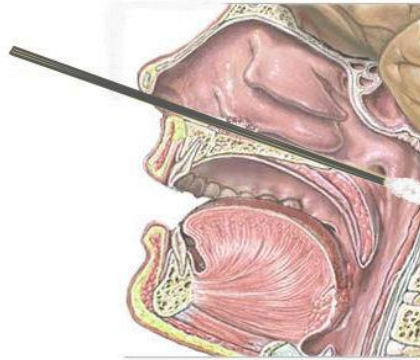
## Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

**CLEARLY LABEL SPECIMEN WITH PATIENT'S FULL NAME,  
DATE OF BIRTH, DATE AND TIME OF COLLECTION.**

**\*Specimen may be rejected if this crucial step is omitted!\***

### Materials:

- Flexible nasopharyngeal swab (appropriate for test ordered)
- Transport media (if applicable for test)
- Disposable gloves
- Mask for covering nose and mouth of health worker
- Eye protection/goggles for health worker (to protect from coughs, sneezes, or splashes)
- Facial tissues (for patient use)



*Nasopharyngeal swab collection should only be performed by licensed and trained medical staff.  
Laboratory staff does NOT collect.*

### Collection Procedure:

1. Explain collection process to patient.
2. Don personal protective gear (gloves, mask and eye protection).
3. Insert dry swab through one nostril **straight back** (not upwards), along the floor of the nasal passage until reaching the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted. *Do not force swab. If resistance is encountered during swab insertion, remove it and attempt insertion in the opposite nostril.*
3. Rotate swab gently and leave in place for up to 10 seconds. The patient will usually gag or show other signs of discomfort. Instruct patients to sit with their head against a wall to reduce the tendency of pulling away during this procedure.
4. Immediately place swab into the transport container and secure shut. Label specimen with patient information (see above) and send to lab for testing.

\*Swab may be moistened in saline prior to sample collection. DO NOT put swab in saline after collection.