



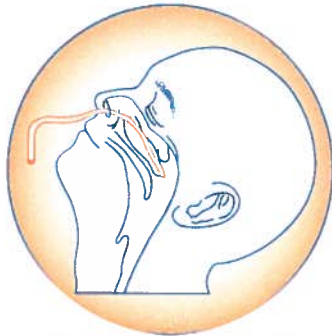
NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR VIRAL RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS

A Guide For Providers

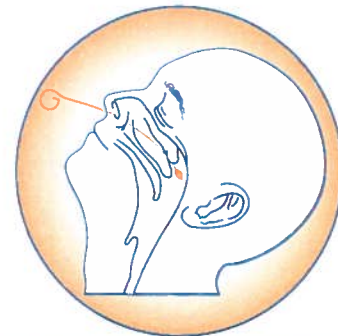
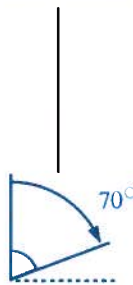


USE MASK, GLOVES, AND EYE PROTECTION

NASOPHARYNGEAL ASPIRATE/ WASH	NASOPHARYNGEAL(NP) or OROPHARYNGEAL(OP/THROAT) SWAB
Materials: ▪ Sterile suction catheter/suction apparatus ▪ Sterile saline ▪ Viral transport media tube PROCEDURE 1. Attach catheter to suction apparatus. 2. Instill several drops of sterile saline into each nostril. No saline is used for aspirate. 3. Place catheter through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (distance from nostrils to external opening of ear). 4. Apply gentle suction. Using a rotating motion, slowly withdraw catheter. 5. Place specimen in a sterile vial.	Materials: ▪ Sterile Dacron/nylon swab ▪ Viral transport media tube PROCEDURE 1. Insert the swab through the nostril, parallel to the palate to the posterior nasopharynx (distance from the nostrils to the external opening of ear). 2. The swab should be left in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions. 3. Slowly withdraw the swab using a rotating motion. Swab both nostrils with the same swab. 4. For OP/throat swab, swab the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas, avoiding the tongue. 5. Put the tip of the swab into the plastic vial containing viral transport media and cut off the applicator stick.



Incline patient's head as shown.



NASAL SWABS	STORING, PACKING AND SHIPPING
Materials: ▪ Dry polyester swab ▪ Viral transport media tube PROCEDURE 1. Insert a dry polyester swab into the nostril. 2. Using a gentle rotation, push the swab until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than 1 inch into the nostril). 3. Rotate the swab a few times against the nasal wall. 4. Repeat in the other nostril using the same swab. 5. Put the tip of the swab into the plastic vial containing viral transport media and cut off the applicator stick.	The following steps should be followed to ensure that the best quality sample is received. 1. Label the specimen vial and ensure the cap is tightly sealed to avoid leakage. 2. An SRD-1 form (available at http://www.state.nj.us/health/forms/srd-1.pdf) should be completed on each specimen that is being sent to the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL). 3. Samples should be sent to the laboratory immediately (testing sensitivity decreases over time). Specimens should be kept refrigerated (2-8° C, 26-46° F) prior to shipping. If delivery will be delayed for several days, specimens should be frozen at -70° C (-94 °F). 4. Samples should be packaged in accordance with USDOT regulation 49 CFR 178.199 utilizing packaging meeting USDOT specifications for biological substances. Please include a frozen cold pack with the specimens to maintain the cold chain during shipment.

UTILIZATION OF RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KITS

If an influenza rapid antigen test kit is going to be used and the sample is going to be sent to a reference laboratory, two samples should be collected at the same time using one of the techniques described above. One sample can be used for testing via the rapid antigen test kit. Package inserts accompanying the rapid antigen test kit should be followed. The second sample can then be sent to the reference laboratory. This will ensure correlation between the two samples collected.

For assistance call the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Communicable Disease Service at 609-588-7500. Specimen shipping address: NJDHSS, Public Health Laboratories, John Fitch Plaza, Health and Agriculture Building, 369 South Warren St, Trenton, NJ 08625 c/o Virology Program