

## COVID-19: NASOPHARYNGEAL COLLECTION

### HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COLLECTION OF NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS FOR COVID-19

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

**Swab:** DO NOT USE wood-shafted or calcium alginate swabs.

- Flocked tipped nasopharyngeal (NP) swab with nylon fiber on a plastic or wire shaft (mini-tip swab)

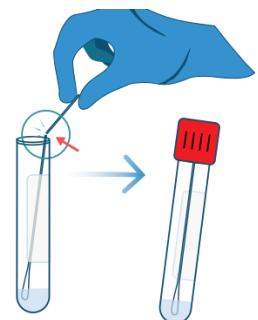
#### Transport Media:

- Universal Transport Media (UTM) is preferred
- Alternatives if UTM not available:
  - Viral Transport Media (VTM)
  - Saline (0.9%) Vial or eSwab (*least preferred*)



#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR NASOPHARYNGEAL COLLECTION

1. To be performed by a healthcare professional whose certification covers NP collection.
2. Assemble supplies. Take all infection prevention steps in accordance to CDC.
3. Open the collection kit and remove the swab, taking care not to touch the tip to any surface or lay it down.
4. Collecting the specimen:
  - If the patient has a lot of mucus in the nose, have the patient use a tissue to gently clean the nasal passage before a swab is taken.
  - Position head slightly back. Gently insert mini-tip swab with a flexible shaft (plastic or wire) into the nostril keeping it parallel to the palate (not upwards) until the posterior nasopharynx is reached (the distance from nostrils to external opening of ear).
  - Gently rub and roll the swab. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the mini-tip is saturated with fluid from the first collection.
5. Place NP swab into the transport medium vial and break (snap) off at the break point line. Replace the vial cap and screw on security. Label sample and place in biohazard bag. Include the lab order in the outer pocket of the bag. Refrigerate specimen for transport.



CDC Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html#collecting-Nasopharyngeal-Specimen-Collection-Steps> (cdc.gov)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100