

Nasopharyngeal Swab Technique

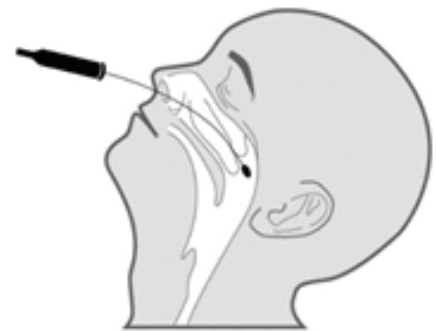
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Step-by-Step Instructions

- Gather the appropriate supplies.
 - Please note:** you may need to obtain the testing supplies from the Hospital Supervisor
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
 - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab**
 - Appropriate transport media**
 - Facial tissue**
- Explain the procedure to the patient and what they can expect to feel
- Gauge the approximate depth that you will have to insert the swab based on the patient's anatomy
- Provide the patient with facial tissues and have them blow their nose to remove excess nasal secretions or mucus
- Ask the patient to tilt their head back
- Gently insert the swab along the nasal septum, just above the floor of the nasal passage to the nasopharynx until resistance is felt (**Figure 1**)
- Gently and slowly rotate the swab against the nasopharyngeal mucosa for 10-15 seconds
- Gently and slowly remove the swab
- Break the tip of the swab off into the appropriate transport container/medium
- Ensure the transport medium vial is labelled appropriately
- Send labeled specimen to the laboratory

Figure 1



Important Information

- When performing a nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 testing or screening, **you must wear the appropriate PPE.**
- Please follow the steps for appropriate donning and doffing of PPE to avoid self-contamination
- The NP swab **must be a flexible, flocked viral swab.** It is not appropriate to use a cotton-tipped wooden swab.

Additional Resources

- Standard Work: Nasopharyngeal Swab Technique
- PROTOCOL: Pre-Procedure COVID-19 Testing Protocol (PolicyTech Reference # 24776)
- Donning and Doffing Guidance