

Nasal Swab Technique Tip Sheet: HCP Performed Procedure - 8.26.2020 1000

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To be utilized when a healthcare provider is performing the nasal swab procedure.

Steps

1 Gather the appropriate supplies

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Transport media
- Facial tissue
- Nasal swab (Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit)
- Specimen label

2 Explain the procedure to the patient and what they can expect to feel

3 Provide the patient with facial tissues

4 Ask the patient to remove their mask and tilt their head back slightly.

5 Insert the swab at least 1 cm (0.5 inch) inside the nostril

6 Firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab and leaving in place for 10 to 15 seconds. You may wish to place a finger on the outside of the patient's nostril to help with specimen collection.

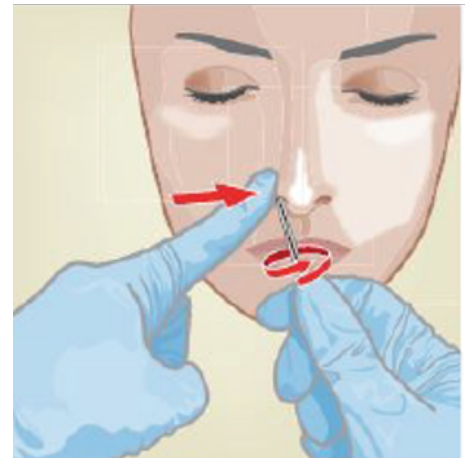
7 Remove the swab from the nostril and repeat the swabbing technique (Steps 5 and 6) within the opposite nostril. Sample both nostrils with the same swab.

8 Remove the swab from the nostril, using caution to avoid touching the swab end.

9 Break the tip of the swab off into the appropriate transport container/medium.

10 Ensure the transport medium vial is labelled appropriately.

11 After documentation in Epic, send labelled specimen to the laboratory.



Important Information

Nasal sampling is less invasive and results in less patient discomfort than sampling from other upper respiratory anatomical sites.

Guidelines for appropriate PPE:

- For PPE recommendations, reference [PPE Selection in Ambulatory Setting](#)
- Please follow the steps for appropriate donning and doffing of PPE to avoid self-contamination

Additional Resources

- PROTOCOL: COVID-19 Testing Protocol (PolicyTech Reference # 24776)
- Donning and Doffing Guidance
- Laboratory Test Directory: <https://spectrumhealth.testcatalog.org/>

Reference

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/OASH-nasal-specimen-collection-fact-sheet.pdf>