

Nasopharyngeal Swab Technique April 30,2020, 1235

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Standard Work Activity Sheet		Authors: Jeff McCabe, Megan Roth, Chad Galdys Date: 4/30/2020
Step:	Purpose: Describe the process for performing a nasopharyngeal swab for specimen collection	Value Stream:

Seq. No	Task Description:	Key Point / Image / Measure (what good looks like)	Who
1.	Gather appropriate supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal protective equipment (PPE) - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab - Appropriate transport media - Facial tissue 	Individual performing specimen collection
2.	Don the appropriate PPE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow steps as defined by Infection Prevention 	Individual performing specimen collection
3.	Explain the procedure to the patient and what they can expect to feel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Should not be painful, but may feel mild discomfort - Eyes may water - A gag reflex may be triggered - They may want to close their eyes to help lessen the discomfort - The procedure will be complete in approximately 15 seconds 	Individual performing specimen collection
4.	Gauge the approximate depth that you will have to insert swab based on the patient's anatomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measure or visually gauge distance between patient's base of nose to ear lobe. The swab should be inserted approximately half that distance - Mark the depth on the swab with marker if needed - This depth is especially important with pediatric patients 	Individual performing specimen collection

Seq. No	Task Description:	Key Point / Image / Measure (what good looks like)	Who
5.	Provide the patient with facial tissues and have them blow their nose to remove excess nasal secretions or mucus	- Provide patient with a clean facial tissue after they blow their nose	Individual performing specimen collection
6.	Ask the patient to tilt their head back		Individual performing specimen collection
7.	Gently insert the swab along the nasal septum, just above the floor of the nasal passage to the nasopharynx until resistance is felt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choose the nare with the largest opening if one is larger than the other - Keep the swab at the base of the nare and insert horizontally (perpendicular) into the nasopharynx - Do not insert swab in an upward motion - If you meet resistance upon insertion, remove the swab and attempt on the other nare 	Individual performing specimen collection
8.	Gently and slowly rotate the swab against the nasopharyngeal mucosa for 10-15 seconds	- Proper specimen collection technique is essential to help ensure accurate testing results	Individual performing specimen collection
9.	Gently and slowly remove the swab		Individual performing specimen collection
10.	Break tip of swab off into appropriate transport container/medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swab has a marked break point on shaft where swab will break - Leave tip of swab in transport medium and place the other end in the garbage 	Individual performing specimen collection
11.	Ensure the transport medium vial is labelled appropriately	- Vial is labelled with appropriate specimen label	Individual performing specimen collection
12.	Doff PPE	- Follow steps as defined by Infection Prevention	Individual performing specimen collection
13.	Send labelled specimen to the laboratory	- Follow standard practice for transport to the laboratory	Individual performing specimen collection or designee