

Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Instructions

- **Position patient** (whether pediatric or adult) properly for nasopharyngeal (NP) collection procedure (see *Figure 1*)
- **Nasopharyngeal Aspirate Specimen Collection:**
 - Insert tubing attached to syringe (or compressed bulb for infants) through nose and direct toward nasopharynx (see *Figure 2*)
 - Pull back on syringe (or decompress bulb for infants) to withdraw secretions
 - Expel secretions into viral transport media
- **Nasopharyngeal Washings Specimen Collection:**
 - Fill syringe with 5.0 mL sterile saline (or fill bulb for infants) and instruct patient not to swallow during procedure
 - Insert tubing attached to syringe (or bulb for infants) through nose and direct toward nasopharynx (see *Figure 2*)
 - Gently expel saline into the nasopharynx; wait 1-2 seconds and then pull back on syringe (or decompress bulb) to withdraw saline
 - Expel saline washings in syringe (or bulb) into viral transport media
- **Specimen Collection with Swab, Flocked, Adult, Nasopharyngeal:**
(Order SBMF stock item #10350 – *Note:* this item will also include a vial of M4 media)
 - Insert flocked nasopharyngeal swab into patient's nasal passage until a slight resistance is met (see *Figure 3*)
 - Rotate swab 2-3 times and hold swab in place for 5 seconds to ensure maximum absorbency
 - Withdraw swab and repeat procedure in other nares with the same swab
 - Remove swab, place in vial of viral transport media (M4, M6 or UTM), and break off shaft at the molded breakpoint
 - Securely tighten media tube cap
 - Immediately refrigerate and transport specimen
 - Must be received within 72 hours of collection time

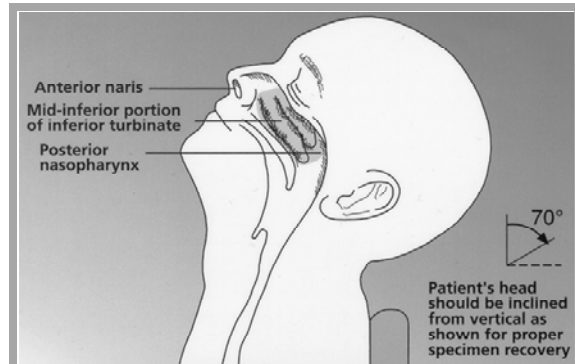


Figure 1: Proper Position for Sampling

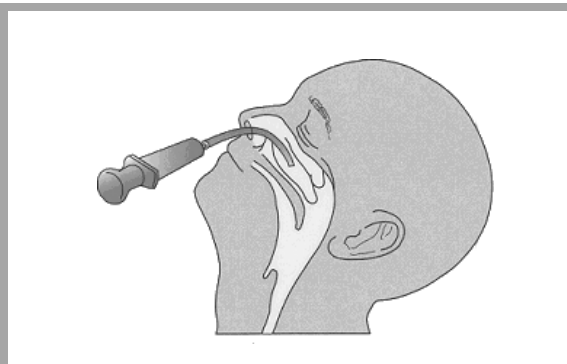


Figure 2: Syringe (or bulb) for collecting NP aspirate or washings

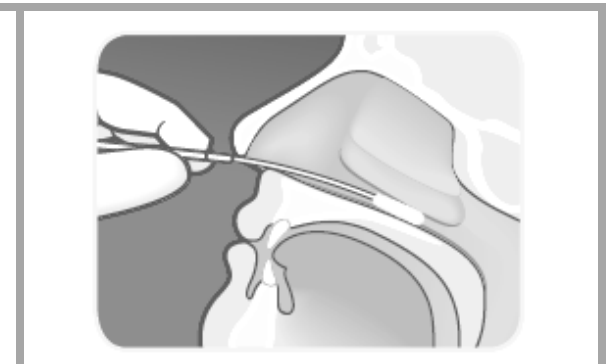


Figure 3: Mini-Tip Swab for NP Sampling

Refer questions regarding this collection procedure to the Microbiology Department, South Bend Medical Foundation, (574) 234-4176 or (800) 544-0925.