COVID 19
Nasopharyngeal Collection
Procedure

General Information: Obtain nasopharyngeal specimen by nasopharyngeal swab.

Note: Viruses are intracellular, so nasopharyngeal swab must contain an adequate number of cells for optimal results.

Supplies Needed:
- VTM (viral transport media) tube
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Flocked nasopharyngeal swab

Procedure:
1. Don PPE.
2. Open VTM tube if obtaining viral specimen
3. Open flocked nasopharyngeal swab package, leaving paper covering on handle end to maintain sterility.
4. Insert a swab into nostril parallel to the palate. Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. See diagram below for proper insertion of swab. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html)
5. Remove swab and immediately place in VTM tube. Break off excess swab handle to fit into VTM tube.
6. Label VTM tube, and immediately send to the laboratory

To view a nasopharyngeal specimen collection video, click here, or use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code below:


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