

COVID19 NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

PURPOSE

- To obtain a specimen from the nasopharyngeal tract.
- A nasopharyngeal swab is the optimal upper respiratory tract specimen collection method for COVID-19 testing. Other testing options for COVID19 include oropharyngeal, and nasal swabs)

APPLIES TO

- Nursing

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

- PPE
 - N95* (preferred), with goggles **or** faceshield
 - When N95s are not available, use of a KN95* with a faceshield **and** goggles is a suitable alternative
 - Gloves
 - Eye shield, goggles, or face shield
 - Gown
- * must pass fit teting
- **Appropriate testing kit – follow guidelines for transportation** - Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic or wire shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing

PROCEDURE

1. Verify appropriate orders. Prepare label, to be applied immediately after specimen collected. Hand Hygiene. Refer to Hand Hygiene procedure.
2. Apply PPE prior to entering patient's room or home. Refer to PPE procedures.
3. Tilt the patient's head back 70 degrees. If possible, have the patient rest their head against a wall or hard surface for the specimen collection
4. Insert the swab through the nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx. leave in place for 5 - 10 seconds to absorb secretions.
5. Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.
6. Gently rub and roll the swab.

7. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
8. Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
9. Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the minitip is saturated with fluid from the first collection.
10. If a deviated septum or blockage create difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril.
11. Place tip of swab into the labeled sterile transport tube.
12. Place labeled specimen in biohazard bag and store according to manufacturer's guidelines and attach requisition.
 - a. If the specimen is for viral testing it should be stored with a frozen pack and kept refrigerated until transport to the lab
13. Dispose of equipment per agency waste disposal policy.
14. Remove PPE and dispose of per PPE procedures.
15. Hand hygiene. Refer to the Hand Hygiene procedure
16. Deliver to Lab.

NOTE

- Testing is likely to induce a cough or sneeze.

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Document in the clinical record:

- Specimen collection method, time, and date.
- Specimen characteristics: amount, color, consistency odor.
- The client's tolerance of the procedure.

RELATED PROCEDURES

None