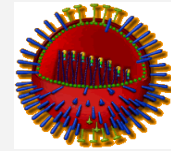




**- PPHSN -
Influenza Surveillance
Network**



SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Specimen collection preparation

Assemble the following items to collect specimens appropriately

- a. For Nasopharyngeal Swabs (NPS).
 - i. 2 swabs: dacron, or nylon swab; with flexible plastic shaft
 - ii. A glass specimen slide with 8 wells (to be provided by the lab).
 - iii. A transport vial with screw cap (to be provided by the lab).

Note:

Copan flocked swabs are recommended
Cotton or calcium alginate tipped and wooden-shafted swabs **cannot** be used

- b. For Nasopharyngeal Aspirate (NPA).
 - i. A clean, leak-proof container (having a screw-cap cover).
 - ii. Approximately 4-5 ml of sterile saline (injection saline may be used).
 - iii. A sterile syringe (3 ml size).
 - iv. Sterile syringe tubing (optional).

2. Nasopharyngeal Swab (NPS) Collection

- a. Label the provided specimen slide and transport tube with patient name, patient ID number and collection date.
- b. Use 2 swabs for collection:
- c. Insert the first swab through one nostril straight back (not upwards), along the floor of the nasal passage.
- d. Rotate the swab gently and advance until resistance is felt upon reaching the posterior wall of the nasopharynx
- e. Leave the swab in place for about 10 seconds.
- f. Slowly withdraw the swab with a rotating motion.
- g. Smear the swab on the labeled specimen slide, ensure that nasopharyngeal material is visible on the slide and is smeared on all 8 wells of the slide.
- h. Allow the slide to air dry completely.
- i. Insert the second swab into the other nostril and repeat steps d. to f. above.
- j. After withdrawing the second swab, break it off into the labeled transport vial.
- k. Deliver specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible.

3. Nasopharyngeal Aspirate (NPA) Collection.

- a. Extend the patients head back as far as possible.
- b. Apply 2.5 ml of sterile normal saline into one nostril with a syringe.
- c. Collect the nasal wash by placing a clean specimen container directly under the nose, tilt the head forward and allow the fluid to run into the container.
- d. Alternatively, the fluid may be aspirated with a syringe and sterile tubing and then transferred into a clean container.
- e. Repeat the steps with the other nostril.
- f. Deliver the NPA specimen to the lab as soon as possible for testing.