

# Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection for Viral Respiratory Pathogens

## A Guide for Providers

### MATERIALS

- Nasopharyngeal swab (flexible shaft) with dacron or rayon tip.
- Viral transport media.

### INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

Use mask and gloves.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Insert swab straight (not upwards) through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same as from nostrils to external opening of ear).
- 2 Rotate swab a few times to obtain infected cells.
- 3 For an optimal sample, repeat procedure using other nostril.
- 4 Place swab in transport media.
- 5 Bend or cut shaft to completely seal transport tube.

### TRANSPORT & STORAGE

- Send specimen to lab immediately (testing sensitivity decreases over time).
- Refrigerate specimen at 2° - 4° (36° - 40° F) during storage and transport.