

Nasopharyngeal Swab Procedure

- Obtain a viral transport kit



- Perform hand hygiene and don appropriate PPE



- Tilt the patient's head back (looking up toward the ceiling)
- Insert the flexible swab into the nare
 - **Rule of thumb is to insert the swab approximately half the distance between the tip of the nose and the earlobe**
- Gently press the tip of the swab to the mucosal surface of the mid-anterior turbinate (along the floor of the nose) and insert the swab straight back until resistance is met
- Rotate the swab several times and hold the swab in place for a few seconds
- Withdraw the swab and place in the transport tube
- Snap off the end of the swab at the indicator line
- Cap and appropriately label the specimen
- Place specimen in transport bag
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene



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From: Diana Biggs, System Lab Director

Effectively immediately only one Nasopharyngeal Swab per patient is sufficient for both Respiratory Panel testing as well as COVID-19 testing. It is no longer necessary to collect an Oropharyngeal Swab or a second Nasopharyngeal Swab to send to IDPH should COVID-19 testing be approved.