



Nasopharyngeal swab collection – for doctors

Adult nasopharyngeal swabs are performed at all Melbourne Pathology collection centres.

Infant nasopharyngeal swabs may require a parent or guardian to hold the child while the procedure is being performed (if there is only one pathology collector available).

Instructions for collection by doctor

Suitable for influenza, RSV, parainfluenza, pertussis and any other respiratory virus, ie. rhinovirus, coronavirus, bocavirus etc.

DO NOT USE THIS PROCEDURE FOR MRSA OR OTHER BACTERIAL COLLECTIONS.

Immobilise the patient's head at (approximately) a 20 degree angle by holding the chin of an adult, (carer/parent holds the head for a child). Wear gloves and a mask and have the special thin, flocked swab and the transport tube at the ready. **(Note: transport media is NOT required for these PCR tests).**



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Note: The distance the swab is inserted is equal to the length of the patient's index finger. Mark this distance on the swab prior to insertion.

1. Label the swab with the patient's full name, date of birth and date and time of collection.
2. Gently insert the thin plastic flocked swab into a nostril until the posterior nares is reached.
3. Insert the swab directly back, not upwards (as per diagram).
4. Leave the swab in place for up to 10 seconds. (This procedure may induce coughing and tearing).
5. If resistance is encountered during insertion of the swab, remove it and attempt insertion on the opposite nostril.
6. Remove the swab slowly.

7. Place the swab into the transport tube provided. (**Note: transport media is NOT required for these PCR tests**).

