

# NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION

## MATERIALS FOR NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION:

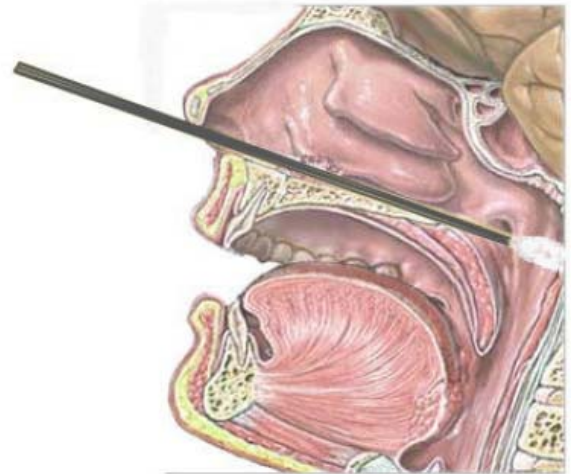
- **Dacron** or **rayon** flexible nasopharyngeal swab
- Test tube with screw cap, plastic preferred
- Gloves (suggested gloves are powder-free)
- Mask for covering nose and mouth of health worker
- Facial tissues (for patient use)
- Eye protection/goggles for health worker (to protect from coughs, sneezes, or splashes)

\*Cotton-tipped or calcium alginate swabs are not acceptable. PCR assays may be inhibited by residues present in these materials.

## NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

### **Procedure:**

1. Insert dry swab through one nostril **straight back** (not upwards), along the floor of the nasal passage until reaching the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted.
2. Rotate swab gently and leave in place for up to 10 seconds.
3. Immediately place swab into the transport container. Send to your laboratory according to their specifications.



**Tip:** The patient will usually gag or show other signs of discomfort. Instruct patients to sit with their head against a wall to reduce the tendency of pulling away during this procedure.

Note: Do not force swab. If resistance is encountered during swab insertion, remove it and attempt insertion in the opposite nostril.