

NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

A Collection Guide for Caregivers - Inpatient

Flexible Mini-Tip Flocked Swab for Viral Specimens:

1. Have patient blow their nose or use bulb syringe to clear mucus. Specimens need to have as **little or no mucus** if possible. (The specimen sample is the tissue cells collected on the swab).
2. Ask patient to flare nostril to avoid touching skin with swab.
3. Gently pass one flexible mini-tipped flocked swab through each nostril, without touching the outside of the nostril, until it comes to the first line of demarcation of the swab (see figure 1).
4. Rotate the swab to collect the specimen.
5. Remove the swab carefully, avoiding contact with the skin area of the nostril.
6. Flexible mini-tipped flocked swabs must be carefully placed into the appropriate container (see table 1).
7. Label container with patient/specimen label and indicate "nasal swab". Send to laboratory immediately.

Figure 1.

