

Nasopharyngeal Collection Instructions (Influenza, RSV, Respiratory Panel, and SARS CoV-2 testing)

Specimen Collection, Transport, and Storage

Proper specimen collection, storage, and transport are critical to the performance of this test. Inadequate specimen collection, improper specimen handling and/or transport may yield a false result.

Maintain proper storage conditions during specimen transport to ensure the integrity of the specimen. See the CarrisHealth online test catalog for specific testing stability requirements: <https://ricelab.testcatalog.org/>

Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection Procedure

Insert the swab into either nostril, passing it into the posterior nasopharynx (see Figure 1). Rotate swab by firmly brushing against the nasopharynx several times. Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 mL of viral transport medium or saline. Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly.

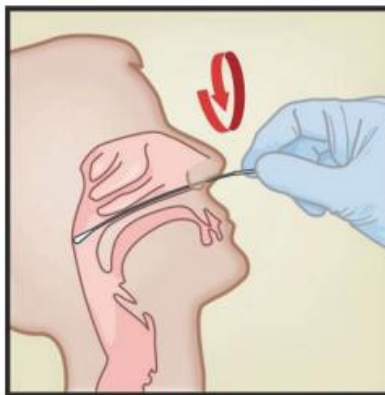


Figure 1. Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

Nasal Swab Collection Procedure

1. Insert a nasal swab 1 to 1.5 cm into a nostril. Rotate the swab against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nostril (see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Nasal Swab Collection for First Nostril

2. Repeat on the other nostril with the same swab, using external pressure on the outside of the other nostril (see Figure 3). To avoid specimen contamination, do not touch the swab tip to anything other than the inside of the nostril.
3. Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 mL of viral transport medium or saline. Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly.



Figure 3. Nasal Swab Collection for Second Nostril

4. Deliver to the lab immediately. If testing is delayed, refrigerate at 2 – 8 °C.
5. This process is also acceptable for the MDH Surveillance testing.