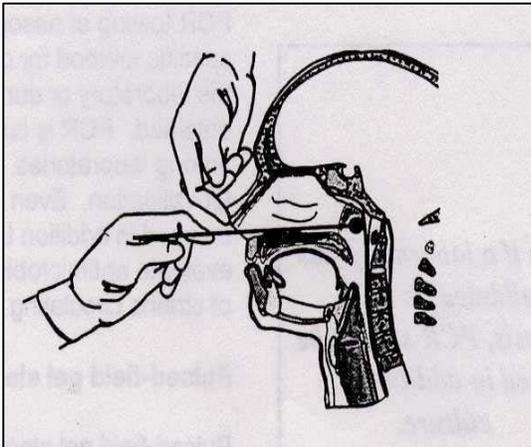


## Nasopharyngeal swab collection

### Materials:

- Dacron-tipped nasopharyngeal swab with flexible wire handle\*
- Regan-Lowe transport media
- Mask and gloves

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



### Procedure:

1. Put on mask and gloves.
2. Have patient sit with head against a wall as patients have a tendency to pull away during this procedure.
3. Insert swab into one nostril **straight back** (not upwards) and continue along the floor of the nasal passage for several centimeters until reaching the nasopharynx (resistance will be met). The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted. Do not force swab, if obstruction is encountered before reaching the nasopharynx, remove swab and try the other side.
4. Rotate the swab gently for 5-10 seconds to loosen the epithelial cells.
5. Remove swab and immediately inoculate Regan-Lowe transport media by inserting the swab at least ½ inch below the surface of the media. Bend or clip the wire swab handle to fit the transport medium tube and reattach the cap securely. A dry swab is acceptable for PCR testing.
6. Specimen should be transported at refrigerator temperature and received by laboratory as soon as possible and  $\leq 3$  days from time of collection.

For a video of nasal pharyngeal swab collection, please see:

<http://video.cdc.gov/asxgen/nip/isd/swabdemo.wmv>