

Performing Nasopharyngeal Swabs

Equipment:

1. Gloves
2. Gown
3. Goggles
4. N95 Mask
5. Face Shield

Applies to:

E	EMT
P	Paramedic

Procedure:

1. Open the specimen collection kit.
2. Ask the individual to remove his/her surgical mask to perform the procedure and have them replace it when done.
3. The distance from the individual's nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted.
4. Have the individual tilt his/her head back gently.
5. Steady their head by placing your hand on their chin with your non-dominant hand.
6. Insert the swab into the nostril straight back (not upwards) and back to the nasopharynx.
7. Leave the swab in for a few seconds.
8. Slowly withdraw swab with a rotating motion.
9. If possible, do the other nostril with the same swab.
10. Place the swab immediately into the sterile vial.
11. Break off or bend the end of the applicator shaft to close the vial tightly.
12. Ensure that the vial displays the individual's name, specimen source (Nose), date obtained and your initials.
13. This is general guidance on the procedure of nasopharyngeal swabbing.
Specimen collection may vary slightly based on manufacturer or testing lab specifications.
Please defer to those testing specifications when appropriate.

