Nasopharyngeal Collections

TriCore Reference Laboratories
1001 Woodward Place, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Collection Supplies

- PPE
  - Gloves
  - Face shield or goggles
  - Closed lab coat
  - N-95 mask.
- Collection materials
  - Viral Transport Media (VTM)
  - Swab
  - Tissue
Nasopharyngeal Collection

Explain process to the patient

- Patient must remain still
- Swab is slowly & gently inserted into nasal passage using a slight upward motion to access posterior nasopharynx to obtain sample.

Insert swab into nostril until posterior nasopharynx is reached

- Patient may be uncomfortable-may move, cough, and or sneeze
- Rotate three to four times
- Remove swab
- Give the patient a tissue
Nasopharyngeal Processing

- Mix swab in VTM
- Break shaft at mark
- Screw cap on tightly
- Label container with CID
- Send with next available courier
  - Do not place in drop boxes
  - Specimen is fragile
Other Nasopharyngeal Collections

- Always refer to Directory of Service prior to collection
- Proper Handling:
  - Influenza A (H1N1) – Refrigerate
  - Influenza A & B Screen - Refrigerate
  - Viral Culture - Refrigerate
  - Respiratory Virus Screen, FA - Refrigerate
  - Pertussis - Refrigerate
Nasopharyngeal Collections
Aseptic Removal of PPE

1. Remove gloves (avoiding contaminated surfaces), turning inside out while removing
2. Remove face shield (if applicable)
3. Remove mask (touching only the strings)
4. Remove lab coat
5. Wash hands with soap & water

Note: Clean collection area with bleach solution so as to protect YOU, the healthcare worker.