



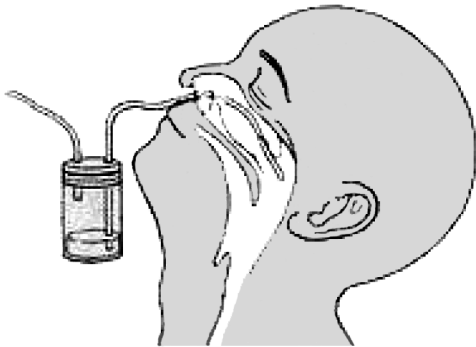
SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR:

RSV Antigen & Influenza A and B Antigen (FLU) Testing

March 2009

Specimen requirements:

- The nasopharynx is where virally infected cells (ciliated epithelium) can best be sampled. This is not the nose or throat, but beyond the nasal turbinates.
- In children, the nasopharynx is most effectively sampled by NP aspiration with a catheter or by bulb/syringe NP wash using sterile saline.
- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab may be submitted, using a fine tipped swab with a metal shaft, and placing the swab into 1 ml saline. BRL currently distributes COPAN swabs that can be used for this purpose.
- A nasal swab is not an acceptable specimen and cannot be tested. Please do not mislabel an NP swab as a nasal swab as it will not be tested.
- These tests include a backup viral culture regardless of antigen result.



Nasopharyngeal aspirate (preferred)

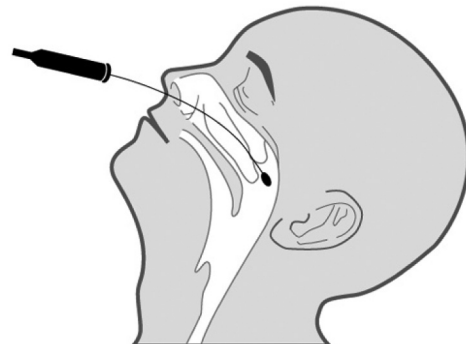
- Tilt patient's head back as shown
- Attach catheter to suction apparatus
(size 8 French for infants, 10-12 for children, 14 or larger for adults)
- Instill several drops of saline into each nostril
- Place catheter through nostril to posterior nasopharynx
- Apply gentle suction, rotating catheter while withdrawing
- Repeat using other nostril

Labeling Specimens:

Indicate collection site as nasopharyngeal or "NP" on specimen and requisition when ordering. Label specimen with two patient identifiers.

Results:

Positive results for both RSV and Influenza A/B will be called to the physician office.



Nasopharyngeal swab

- Tilt patient's head back as shown
- Bend shaft to follow curve, insert swab through nostril to posterior nasopharynx
- Rotate swab a few times to obtain infected cells
- Repeat using other nostril