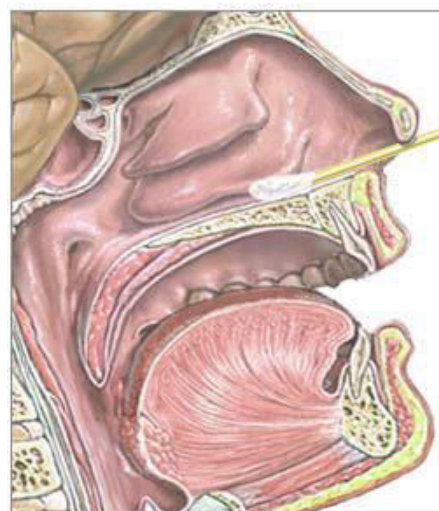


MOLECULAR DIAGNOSIS CENTRE PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Procedure for respiratory viruses testing

For collection of nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) from a suspected case of respiratory virus infection:

1. Collect the tubes of virus transport medium (VTM) and swabs from the Microbiology division or Molecular Diagnosis Centre. These can be stored in the relevant wards during regular operation, this is to avoid clinical teams having to collect them from the laboratory when they are needed
2. Don PPE – gown, gloves (no need to double-glove), N95-fit tested mask, eye/face shield, cap, overshoes
3. Approach the patient (who may be in a negative-pressure isolation room at this stage) and explain the procedure
4. Insert the swab into either nostril; horizontally along the floor of the nose, until gentle resistance is encountered (at the posterior nares), with gentle rotation. The patient may cough during this procedure
5. If undue resistance is met, try the other nostril (some people may have nasal septum deviation)
6. If possible, leave the swab in place for 5-10 seconds, though the patient may cough during this time
7. Withdraw the swab and put it immediately into the tube of VTM. Stir it vigorously to dislodge any cells (and virus) into the medium, break the handle off and leave the swab inside the VTM tube
8. Cap the tube tightly, label it and seal it in a sample collection bag
9. Download and complete the request form, then hand-deliver it to Core Laboratory (Level 3, Lift Lobby 2, Dept Lab Medicine, NUH)



A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx

ADAM.