



Collecting and Preparing a Nasopharyngeal Respiratory Specimen

PLEASE NOTE: Respiratory tract specimens should be collected as soon as possible in the course of the illness and before antimicrobial therapy begins, if possible.

1. On the outside of a nasopharyngeal swab transport tube, write the patient's name and date of birth.
2. Have the patient sit with head tilted slightly backward. Insert flexible swab through the nares parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
3. Gently, rub and roll the swab. Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions before removing.
4. Place the swab back into the transport tube and break the swab where indicated.
5. If ordering the test through the portal, generate a barcode label for the patient's specimen. Place a label on each specimen tube.
6. Place the buccal specimens in a biohazard zip closure bag. Ensure the biohazard zip closure bag is completely sealed.
7. Place any requisition/accompanying paperwork in the outside pocket of the biohazard zip closure bag.
8. Place all biohazard zip closure bags inside of a UPS Laboratory Pak bag.
9. Seal the UPS Laboratory Pak bag. Apply a pre-paid return label from Qitek Labs to the outside of the bag.
10. Allow UPS to pick up the package.