

**NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS**

 

* Swabs may be obtained from SMH Laboratory by Courier Supply Request Form or by calling the hospital Laboratory.
* Explain that patient will experience a tickling sensation (similar to having a feather inserted in the nose). When the swab reaches the back of the nose, the patient may experience a desire to cough and/or may experience watery eyes.
* Have patient tilt head backwards until nasal passage openings are in a horizontal orientation, parallel to floor (sniff position).
* Remove cap from tube -save this tube to put swab into after specimen collection.
* Insert swab into one nostril. Gently pass the swab through the nostril to the posterior nasopharynx. Do not force the swab; resistance will be felt when the posterior nasopharynx is reached. If obstruction is met before swab reaches posterior nasopharynx, remove swab and re-insert in other nostril.
* Rotate swab 180-360º (half to complete circle) to collect mucosal material.
* Withdraw swab quickly.
* Return swab in the tube, labeled with patient’s full name and date of birth. Store at 2-8ºC if delay in transport is expected.

**All samples must be dropped off:**

**Pavilion Laboratory**

**750 Wellington Ave entrance 22**

**Monday- Friday 7:00am-5:30pm**

**Saturday- 7:00am-12:00pm**

**St. Mary’s Laboratory Services**

**(970)298-2071**