

SARS-CoV-2 Proper Specimen Collection

Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection Procedure (preferred specimen type)

- Instruct the patient to cough to bring up secretions.
- Tilt patient's head back.
- Insert the swab into either nostril, passing it into the posterior nasopharynx (see Figure 1).
- Gently rotate swab by firmly brushing against the nasopharynx several times.
- Maintain contact for 10-15 seconds. Swab should be saturated.
- Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 mL of viral transport medium or 3 mL of saline.
- Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly.

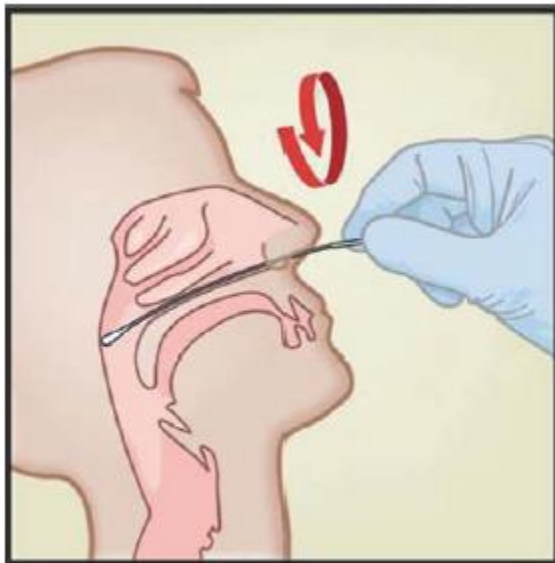


Figure 1. Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

Oropharyngeal Swab Collection Procedure

- Swab the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and other inflamed areas. Avoid touching the tongue, cheeks, and teeth with the swab when collecting specimens.
- Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 mL of viral transport medium or 3 mL of saline. Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly.

Nasal Swab Collection Procedure

- Insert a nasal swab 1 to 1.5 cm into a nostril.
- Rotate the swab against the inside of the nostril for 10-15 seconds while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nostril (see Figure 2).
- Repeat on the other nostril with the same swab, using external pressure on the outside of the other nostril.
- To avoid specimen contamination, do not touch the swab tip to anything other than the inside of the nostril.
- Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 ml of viral transport medium or 3 mL of saline. Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly

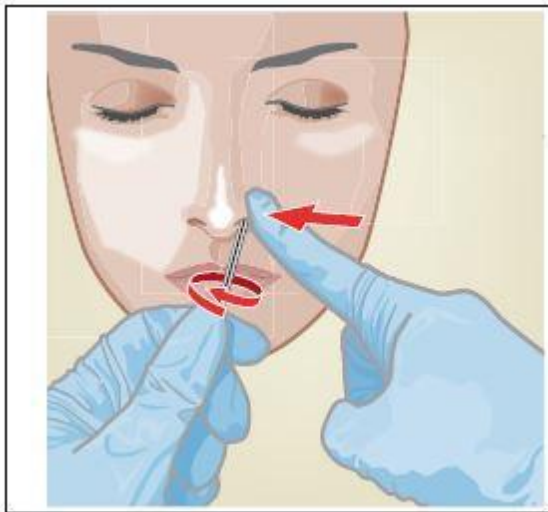


Figure 2. Nasal Swab Collection

Mid-Turbinate Swab Collection Procedure

- Insert the mid-turbinate swab into either nostril, passing it into the mid-turbinate area (see Figure 3). Rotate swab by firmly brushing against the mid-turbinate area several times for 10-15 seconds.
- Remove and place the swab into the tube containing 3 ml of viral transport medium or 3 mL of saline. Break swab at the indicated break line and cap the specimen collection tube tightly.

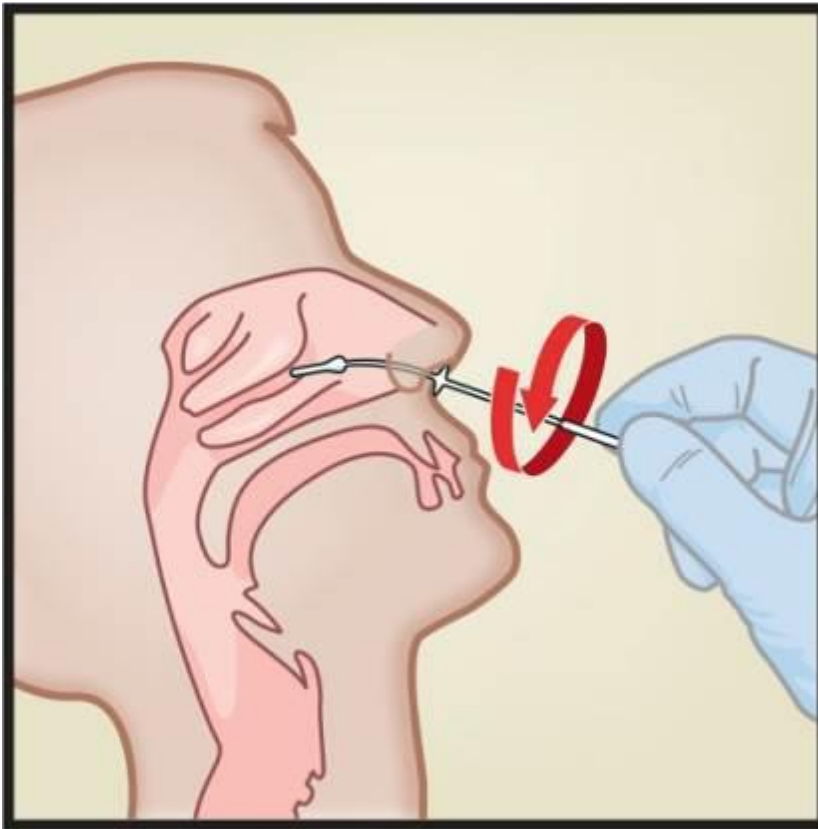


Figure 3. Mid-turbinate Swab Specimen Collection