



NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Swab:

1. Obtain polyester or rayon-tipped swab with an aluminum wire.
2. Remove excessive secretions or exudates from anterior nares.
3. Gently pass the nasopharyngeal swab through the nose into the posterior nasopharynx.
4. Gently rotate the swab, allowing it to absorb secretions.
5. For viral culture; place in M₄ media.
6. For bacterial culture: place into aerobic culture swab transport system.

Aspirate: (Specimen of Choice)

1. Pass a soft tubing into the nasopharynx and aspirate material with a small syringe.
2. If material cannot be aspirated, a small amount of saline can be installed and reaspirated.
3. Send the aspirated material to lab immediately.
4. For viral culture: place in M₄ media.
5. For bacterial culture: place into aerobic culture swab transport system.