

Nasopharyngeal Swab Technique

Nasopharyngeal Swabbing:

- Tilt the patient's head back 70 degrees and insert the swab into nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from nostrils to outer opening of patient's ear indicating contact with nasopharynx.
- **Leave the swab in place for 10-15 seconds while gently rotating.** •



Video Demonstrating Proper Technique: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE#action=share>

Post Sample Collection Preparation:

- Insert the swab into the tube of viral media, making certain that the swab tip is covered by the liquid in the tube and tighten the lid. The swab is to remain in the tube for transport
 - **Plastic shaft NP swab:** The swab shaft extends past the top of the tube. Snap off at the break line on the shaft, allowing the end with the swab tip to remain in the liquid. The tip of the swab must be immersed in the liquid.
 - **Wire shaft swab:** Break off **or bend** wire that is extending past the top of the tube so it is even or below the top of the vial, allowing the end with the swab tip to remain in the liquid.

