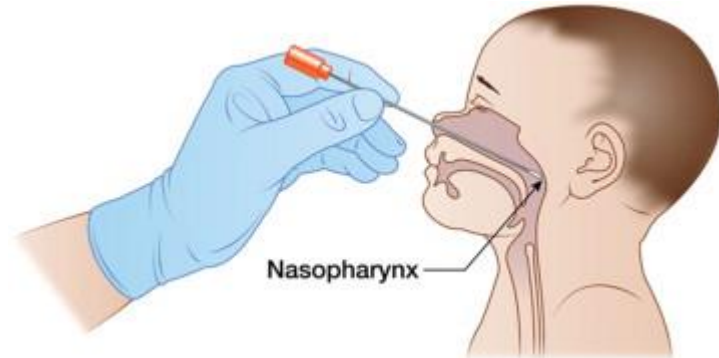


## Guide to nasopharyngeal swab collection

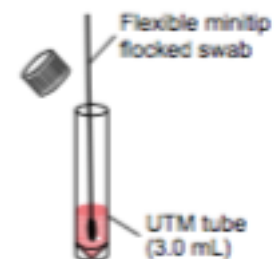
### Materials:

- Sterile flexible minitip flocked swab with a synthetic tip (e.g. Dacron, nylon or rayon) and an aluminium or plastic shaft. Do not use cotton or calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wood shafts
- Tube containing 3ml of Universal Transport Medium (UTM)



### Procedure

1. Instruct the patient to blow their nose (where possible).
2. Place the patient in a seated position with head against a fixed object (e.g. a wall) to prevent the patient from pulling away during the procedure.
3. Tilt the patient's head back at a 70-degree angle.
4. Insert the swab into one nostril straight back (not upwards) and continue along the floor of the nasal passage for several centimetres until reaching the nasopharynx (resistance will be met).
  - DO NOT force the swab – if obstruction is met before reaching the nasopharynx, remove the swab and try the other nostril.
  - The distance from the nose to ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted
5. Rotate the swab gently for 5-10 seconds to loosen the epithelial cells.
6. Remove the swab and immediately insert into the transport media tube.
7. Place the swab head at least ½ inch below the surface of the media and swirl the swab in the media
8. Break the swab shaft and leave the swab in the tube
9. Attach the cap securely



You can [watch how to do this procedure online.](#) Local procedures may vary.