Nasopharyngeal swab Instructions sheet

**Nasopharyngeal swab**

**Reason:** Detection of respiratory viruses such as Influenza, and Bordetella pertussis

**Collection site:**
Nasopharynx (via nose) NOT throat swab or sputum.

*It is important to use the correct swab for viral testing- Orange top Flocked Swab*

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**Procedure**

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Don disposable non-sterile gloves, eye protection & N95 or surgical mask
3. Sit patient comfortably upright with head supported and nose and palate parallel to floor.
4. Hold patients head firmly with one hand and place thumb of hand on tip of nose to tilt nose upwards
5. With other hand hold swab and advance in nostril horizontally until tip reaches posterior of pharynx approximately 8-10 cm
6. Rotate swab slowly and withdraw swab
7. Place swab in collection transport medium
8. Label swab with patient details
9. Check pathology request form has correct details
10. Place specimen in biohazard bag after labelling
11. Send to pathology
12. Document in patient medical notes

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**The pathology slip should request the test RESPCR or XPRESP**