

Specimen Testing Options:

Nasopharyngeal (NP) samples may be collected for Bordetella PCR, Chlamydia culture, Influenza A/B Screen, RSV Screen and/or viral culture.

Test Names and (Test Numbers):

Bordetella PCR	(1554) Specify source	Viral Respir. Cult.	(1168)	Specify source
Influenza A/B Screen	(1180) Specify source	RSV Screen	(1190)	Specify source

Sample Collection Preference:

- Influenza A/B and RSV PCR a NP swab is acceptable ONLY.
- For Bordetella PCR a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is recommended for testing.
- For Chlamydia a NP swab is acceptable.
- For respiratory viral cultures a NP swab is acceptable, however the sensitivity of the testing has been shown to be greater when tested from nasal wash and nasal aspirate samples. Therefore, a nasal wash is the preferred sample, followed by a nasal aspirate and then by a nasal swab sample.

Note: Laboratory staff will not collect or assist in the collection of nasal washes or aspirate samples.

Unacceptable Specimens:

Dry swabs and other inappropriately collected or transported specimens.

Materials Needed:

For nasopharyngeal swabs:

- For Bordetella PCR:
CultureSwab mini-Tip (green cap)
- For Influenza A/B and RSV PCR:
Cepheid Xpert Nasopharyngeal Sample Collection Kit for Viruses (Red cap with Universal Transport Media)
- For Chlamydia culture and/or Viral culture:
Pur-wrap with a Dacron polyester mini-tipped swab and Viral M5 Transport Media.

For nasal washes:

- A sterile pediatric ear syringe bulb containing 1-3 mL of sterile saline and a sterile screw cap container.
Or for alternate method:
- A sterile butterfly needle setup with the needle end removed, a 3 mL syringe containing 1-3 mL of sterile saline and a sterile screw cap container.

For nasal aspirates:

- A soft plastic feeding tube attached to a mucus trap or other suction device, 1 ml of sterile saline and a sterile screw cap container.

Sample Collection Procedure:

- For all procedures wear appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, mask/eye protection) as per protocol.

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab:

1. Seat patient comfortably with head tilted back.
2. Insert the appropriate swab for the testing to be performed ordered into one nostril.
3. Press swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-inferior portion of the inferior turbinate (see sketch), and rub the swab tip several times (5-10 seconds) across the mucosal surface to loosen and collect cellular material. The swab is then removed and placed into the appropriate transport medium.



For Bordetella PCR:

Place swab back into CultureSwab CultureSwab mini-Tip (green cap)

For Influenza A/B Screen and/or RSV Screen:

Break/cut polyester, mini-tipped swab off into the Universal Transport Media (red cap). Screw cap on tightly.

For Chlamydia culture, Influenza A/B Screen, RSV Screen, and/or viral culture:

Break/cut Dacron, a polyester, mini-tipped swab off into the Viral M5 Transport Media. Screw cap on tightly.

4. Samples should be refrigerated until transported.

Nasal Wash:

1. Place patient on her/his side.
2. Gently close the upper nostril with your finger.
3. Using a sterile pediatric ear syringe bulb containing 1-3 ml of sterile saline, insert the tip of the bulb into the lower nostril.
4. Quickly inject the saline into the nostril and immediately aspirate it back into the bulb
5. Empty the bulb into a sterile screw cap container.
6. Samples should be refrigerated until transported.

Nasal Wash – alternate method:

1. Place patient on her/his side.
2. Gently close the upper nostril with your finger.
3. Using a sterile butterfly needle setup with the needle end removed, attach a 3 ml syringe containing 1-3 ml of sterile saline and insert the tip of the tubing into the lower nostril.
4. Quickly inject the saline into the nostril and immediately aspirate it back into the syringe.
5. Empty the syringe into a sterile screw cap container.
6. Samples should be refrigerated until transported.

Nasal Aspirate:

1. Seat patient comfortably with head tilted back.
2. Using a soft plastic feeding tube attached to a mucus trap or other suction device, gently thread the tube into a nostril as far as the nasopharynx and aspirate.
3. Remove the tubing and rinse it with a small amount (1 ml) of sterile saline into a sterile screw cap container.
4. Samples should be refrigerated until transported.