

## Adult Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection for COVID-19

Upper respiratory viral specimens are taken in the nasopharynx.  
Proper Universal Precautions and Droplet Protection PPE are required.

The specimen collection kit consists of viral collection media and a tapered plastic “flocked” swab that is specific for viral specimen collection.



To collect a specimen:

- the patient may be seated or standing.
- instruct the patient to lower their mask to expose the nose while covering the mouth.
- have the patient blow their nose to remove thick secretions that could cover the swab.
- lift the tip of the nose and introduce the swab into the floor of the nose.
- advance the swab along the floor feeling for obstructions and twirling if obstructions are encountered.

*Depending on the size of the head, the back wall of the nasopharynx will be encountered when the red mark is between the tip of the nose and the nasal opening.*

- twirl the swab in the nasopharynx before removing it.
- if unusual discomfort is encountered make sure the swab is directed along the floor of the nose and not up into the nasal cavity.
- nasal anatomy can vary. The other nostril may be more passable.

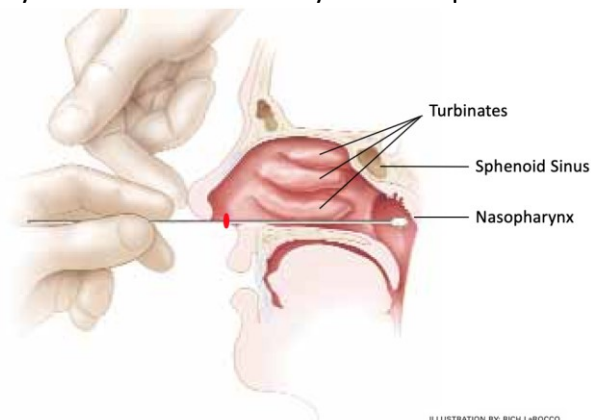


ILLUSTRATION BY: RICH LARROCCO

This video illustrates the technique described above:

<https://youtu.be/lqn3GjKVCy0>