

Upper Respiratory Pathogen Collection Guide 2022

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR COLLECTION

- (1) Requisition (Electronic or Paper)
- (1) Pair gloves and other PPE required
- (1) Nasopharyngeal swab (Red Top) or MTM Universal swab (Clear Top)
- (1) Specimen biohazard bag

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

LABEL SPECIMEN TUBE, FILL OUT TESTING ORDER

- Label specimen tube with the patient's full legal name and DOB.
- **Improperly labeled tubes will cause a rejection.**
- Electronic ordering - <https://innovativegx.limsabc.com/>
- **Not providing proper demographics, insurance information, copy of insurance card front and back, ICD-10 codes with provider signature may cause a rejection.**



STEP 2

COLLECTING THE SPECIMEN

- Have the patient blow their nose in a tissue to clear excess secretions from the nasal passage.
- Remove the swab from its package and discard the package.
- Tilt the patient's head back slightly so that the nasal passage becomes more accessible.
- Instruct the patient to close their eyes to lessen the mild discomfort of the collection process.
- Gently insert the nasopharyngeal swab along the nasal septum just above the floor of the nasal passage to the nasopharynx until resistance is felt.
- Rotate swab gently against the nasopharynx for 10 to 15 seconds.
- Insert swab into tube and break off swab shaft at perforated mark.
- Replace the cap on the tube and secure tightly.
- **If sample collection is not completed as instructed, there will not be sufficient specimen available for testing.**
- **If the specimen tube cap is not sealed tight and correctly, specimen will leak and will cause a rejection.**

STEP 3

PREPARE SPECIMEN FOR SHIPPING

- Place the tightly sealed and properly labeled specimen tube inside the biohazard bag.
- Place patient demographic and insurance information into document pouch within biohazard bag.