



Nasopharyngeal Swab

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

Paramedic

INDICATIONS

- Patient is presenting with S/S of a respiratory infection or as directed by local health officials.

PURPOSE

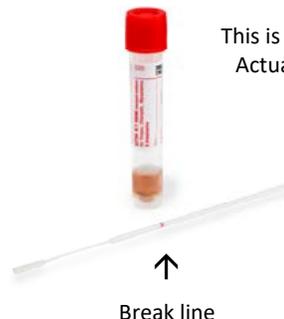
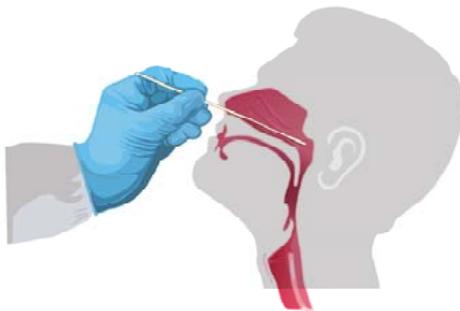
- Testing and detection of respiratory infection.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCEDURE

- EMS provider should wear all appropriate PPE including an N95 or higher level respirator, eye protection/face shield, and gown.
- Use the flexible shaft nasopharyngeal swab provided to collect the specimen.
- Explain the procedure to the patient.
- Tilt the patient's head back 70 degrees and insert the swab into nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from nostrils to outer opening of patient's ear indicating contact with nasopharynx.
- Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove the swab while rotating it.
- Insert the swab into the tube of universal transport medium making certain that the swab tip is covered by the liquid in the tube. The swab is to remain in the tube for transport with cap securely in place.
 - **Plastic shaft swab (most common):** The plastic shaft extends past the top of the tube. Snap it off at the break line on the shaft allowing the end with the swab tip to remain in the liquid and the cap to be screwed on top of the tube.
- Label the tube and fill out any appropriate paperwork.
- Store sample as appropriate.

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



This is an example swab. Actual swab and tube may vary.

KEY POINTS

Procedure may be uncomfortable for patient and could induce coughing, movement, or other reaction.

Infection control precautions for Collection of Nasopharyngeal swabs for COVID-19:

- EMS provider should wear all PPE including an N95 mask, eye protection/face shield, gown; follow the CDC Infection prevention and control guidelines, including the donning and doffing of PPE.

Collection Instructions:

- See the current CDC guidelines for upper and lower respiratory specimen collection and appropriate biosafety precautions for healthcare workers found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/caring-for-patients.html>



Medical Director: Ben Weston, MD MPH

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