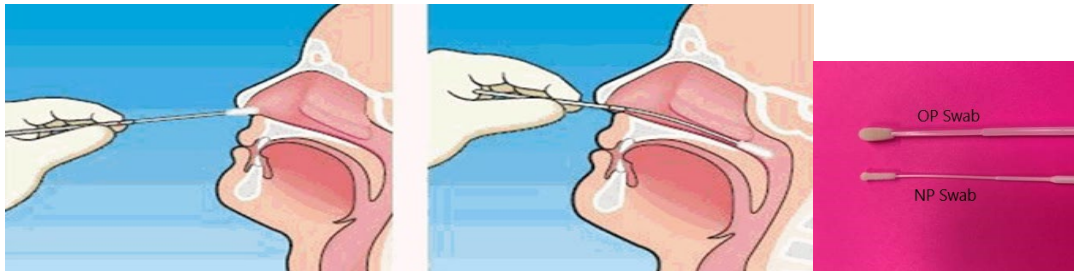


Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection for COVID-19 testing or respiratory pathogen panel testing-for specimens collected at UI Health Care main campus

NP swabs should not be used for patients with a history of nasal trauma, bleeding disorders, nasal medications, or deviated septum. These conditions could lead to increased trauma and inaccurate results if the NP swab is used. An OP swab should be used for COVID-19 testing for these patients. Call Processed Stores 6-1784 if an OP swab is needed, **PS#74541 OP Swab COVID-19** and is not available in your unit/clinic. NP swabs are also provided by Processed Stores and stocked on Omnicells. If your area does not have an Omnicell you can order NP Swab COVID-19 kits from Processed Stores **#157252 NP Swab COVID-19**.

- 1) Don appropriate PPE prior to specimen collection per current UI Health Care guidance.
- 2) Label the transport media vial with specimen label prior to specimen collection.
- 3) Open the collection swab wrapper by peeling open the top of the wrapper. Remove the swab taking care not to touch the tip or lay it down.
- 4) Inset swab into one nostril straight in, not upwards, until resistance is met or until tip is $\frac{1}{2}$ distance from nostril to base of ear.



****smaller swab (NP) ** Do not use large OP swab for nasopharyngeal collection**

- 5) Rotate swab over surface of posterior nasopharynx 2-3 times, do not advance and hold in place for 5 seconds before removing.
- 6) While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the transport vial containing liquid media. Place the collection swab into the vial.
- 7) Identify the scoreline on the collection swab shaft, then carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
- 8) Re-cap the transport tube and **tighten the cap securely**.
- 9) **Double bag specimen in biohazard bags provided.**
- 10) Place the specimen in a pneumatic tube system carrier. Send the specimen to the microbiology lab tube station #160.