

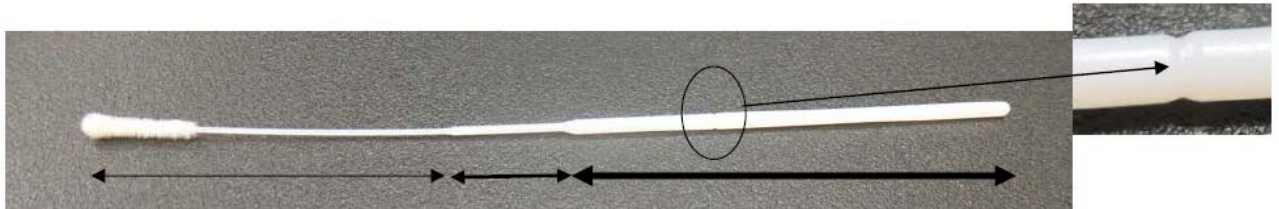
## Working Practice Guideline

### Nasopharyngeal Swab Procedure

#### EQUIPMENT

- Copan nasopharyngeal swab and eNAT transport medium in sterile packaging. Only swabs provided for the trial should be used.

The nasopharyngeal swab has a white plastic shaft, with 3 different thicknesses, ending in a “furry” or flock tip. There is a deep score mark on the thick part of the shaft where it can be snapped to fit into the transport medium container, obviating the need to cut it with a sterile scissors (see diagram). Each swab is individually packaged and labelled “1 ML PERNASAL”.



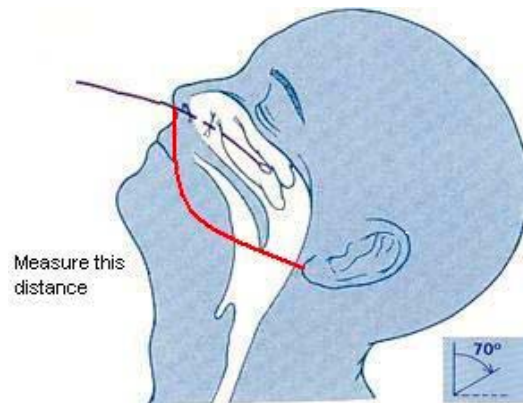
- Gloves
- Nasopharyngeal sample label

#### PREPARATION

- Ensure nasopharyngeal swab is within the expiry date
- Wash hands and put on gloves
- Ask the participant to sit in a chair or lie on a bed – elevate the head of the bed so that their head can be tilted back.

#### PROCEDURE

- Carefully open swab packaging, only handling the swab above the break point.
- Ask the participant blow their nose to remove any mucous or remove mucous manually with a cotton tipped swab prior to collecting nasopharyngeal swab
- How deep is the NP swab inserted into the nasopharynx?  
Measure the distance from the corner of the nose to the front of the ear and insert the shaft ONLY half this length (see image). In adults, this distance is usually about 4 cm, (finest thickness of the swab shaft).



- Tilt the participant's head back slightly, about 70 degrees.  
This straightens the passage from the front of the nose to the nasopharynx to make insertion of the swab easier.
- Insert swab  
Avoiding contacting external nasal skin, gently insert the swab along the medial part of the septum, along the base of the nose, until it reaches the posterior nares – gentle rotation of the swab may be helpful. (If resistance is encountered on one side, try the other nostril, as the participant may have a deviated septum). Insertion of the swab usually induces a cough.
- Rotate the swab several times and then carefully remove the swab.
- Place swab directly into the eNAT media, avoiding swab coming into contact with external nasal skin, or outside of container. Note: avoid spilling the eNAT media, eNAT medium is harmful if swallowed or inhaled. If contact with skin occurs, wash off with water immediately.
- Break the shaft of the swab at the break point. Ensure swab tip remains submerged in eNAT media
- Position broken point of shaft in centre of transport tube lid and apply gentle downwards pressure on the swab shaft, causing the thinnest part to bend inside the tube, until the lid of the container can be screwed on tight. Failure to do so will allow leakage of eNAT medium and compromise of sample integrity
- Follow the swab tube labelling and storage instructions given in laboratory manual
- Remove and discard gloves.
- Wash hands
- Instructional Videos for nasopharyngeal specimen collection practise may be found on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE>