

# Instructions for Collection a Nasopharyngeal Swab using UTM (VTM) Collection Kit

## Personal Protective Equipment

COVID-19 infection prevention and control advice is available on the Ministry of Health website under “Primary Care Quick Reference Guide”.

Droplet and contact precautions are advised when collecting specimens, which includes the use of:

- Disposable, fluid resistant gown (long sleeved)
- Gloves
- Surgical Mask
- Eye Protection (e.g. goggles or face shield)

## Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection

1. Prepare the UTM collection tube – label with patient name, date of birth, NHI, and date of collection.
2. **ENSURE THE PATIENT BLOWS NOSE PRIOR TO COLLECTION.**



3. Use the Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and UTM (VTM) Collection tube (the colour of the lid may vary from the photo).
4. Insert the NP swab slowly into the nasal passage – it should pass along the floor of the nasal passage (parallel to the hard palate). See figure.
5. If any resistance is felt, try the other side.
6. In small children, just over half the swab shaft will be inserted. In adults, well over two-thirds of the swab shaft will be inserted.
7. Once the swab is in position, rotate for 10-15 seconds.
8. Remove swab from nasal passage and place into the UTM (VTM) tube and break the swab at the indent by bending. Discard the top portion of the swab.
9. If the swab shaft extends beyond the top of the UTM tube, use the cap to gently push the shaft into the tube and securely screw the cap in place. Ensure there is no leakage and the cap is not cross threaded.
10. Place the specimen in a specimen bag and place the form in the sleeve on the outside of the bag.
11. Transport to the laboratory via your usual collection service at room temperature.

