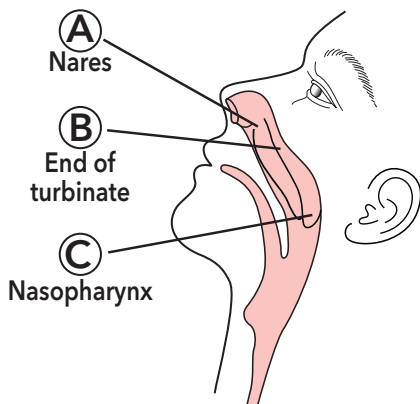


# How To ...

## Obtain nasal/nasopharyngeal swab specimens\*



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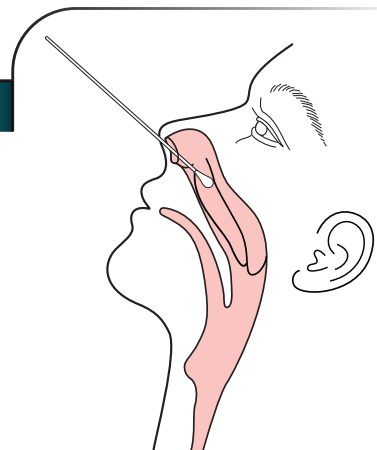


In each case, collect samples by standard clinical methods.

*Tip the patient's head back and check to see which nostril has more mucus (head should be inclined from vertical as shown for proper specimen collection). It is important to obtain as much secretion as possible.*

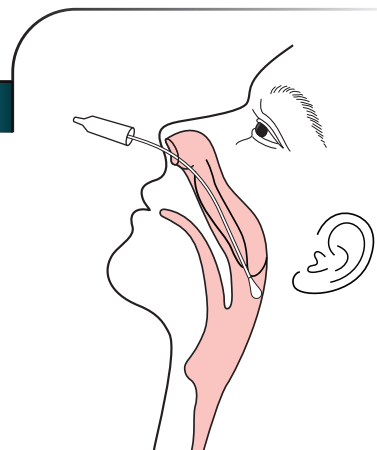
### NASAL SWAB

1. Gently insert the sterile swab until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril).
2. Rotate the swab a few times against the nasal wall and remove from nostril.
3. Sample should be tested as soon as possible.



### NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB

1. Gently insert the sterile swab.
2. Keep the swab near the septum floor of the nose while gently pushing the swab into the posterior nasopharynx.
3. Rotate the swab several times and remove from nostril.
4. Sample should be tested as soon as possible.



Source:  
\*Henretig F.M., MD, King C., MD.  
Textbook of Pediatric Emergency  
Procedures, Chapter 123: Obtaining  
Biologic Specimens. Williams and  
Williams (April 1997).



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