

Nasal Wash Specimen Collection

For Respiratory Virus Testing

Nasopharyngeal flocked swab specimens are the preferred specimen for the purpose of respiratory virus testing. However, **if the patient is at risk for significant bleeding, a nasal wash may be obtained.**

- There are 2 different respiratory virus test panels: Resp Virus Panel – Standard Pt. Lab (7961) and Resp Virus Panel –High Risk immunocomprom. Pt. Lab (7962)
- Wear protective gear based on the patient’s isolation and/or clinical status.

PROCEDURE

1. Suction 3-5 ml of sterile saline into a new sterile bulb.
2. Insert bulb into one nostril until nostril is occluded.
3. Instill saline into one nostril with one squeeze of the bulb and immediately release bulb to collect recoverable nasal specimen.
4. Empty bulb into suitable dry, sterile specimen container or add 3 ml or less to viral transport media (M4RT) (SAP #44674).
5. Transport immediately at ambient temperature.