



**North Dakota Department of Health Microbiology Laboratory
NASOPHARYNGEAL Collection Instructions:**

1. The Nasopharyngeal collection kit, provided by the Division of Microbiology, includes:
 - a. One universal transport media tube.
 - b. One sterile Dacron® polyester-tipped swab suitable for the collection of nasopharyngeal specimens. (Calcium alginate swabs and cotton swabs with wooden shafts are unacceptable.)
2. Place Nasopharyngeal swab into Viral Transport Media.
 - a. Break the excess length of the swab inside the transport media at the scored break point and cap the tube tightly.
 - b. Label the tube with the patient's name and date of birth.
3. Complete a Laboratory Test Request Form with the requested information. Be sure to complete the Patient Data section (symptoms and immunization history) and, if needed, the Travel history form. Select either "SARS-CoV-2 (Novel Coronavirus COVID-19)" or "Influenza PCR" or "*Bordetella species* HDA" or "Respiratory Panel."
4. Return the universal transport media to the zip-lock plastic biohazard bag that contained the collection supplies and place both the specimen and the completed request form into a category B shipping container provided by the Division of Microbiology.
5. Send with ice packs refrigerated at 2-8°C to:

For COVID-19 **send within 3 days**

For Influenza Virus **send within 4 days**

For Bordetella Pertussis and Parapertussis **send within 4 days**

For Respiratory Panel **send within 2 days**

**Division of Microbiology
2635 East Main Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58506**

** If delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C and ship on dry ice. **

If you have any questions regarding specimen collection, please call Kristie Schwarzkopf or Stacey Alexander at 701-328-6272

*Other sample types for Influenza are acceptable and can be found on the backside of this sheet.

Additional Acceptable Samples types for *Influenza virus* testing ONLY

Nasal Swab – Insert dry swab into nasal passage and allow it to absorb secretions. Place swabs into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.

Throat Swab – Vigorously rub the posterior wall of the pharynx with a dry, sterile, swab. The swab should not touch the tongue or buccal mucosa. Place the swab into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.

Nasal Aspirate/Wash –Specimens are placed into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.

Lower Respiratory Tract Specimens – These specimens include bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, bronchial aspirates, bronchial washes, endotracheal aspirates, endotracheal washes, tracheal aspirates, and lung tissue. Place the sample into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.

Influenza Rapid Test Positive Samples

When Influenza is detected in your laboratory by RAPID TESTING methods, you may send an aliquot (minimum of 0.5 mL) of the original suspensions (NOT exposed to kit reagents).

Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs from patients meeting the case definition should be collected and referred regardless of rapid test results because performance of individual rapid testing methods varies.