NP SWAB & NP ASPIRATE: SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

HOW TO COLLECT A NP SWAB
1. Tilt patient’s head 70°.
2. Carefully insert flocked NP swab through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same distance as from nostrils to external opening of ear). Push swab past the point of resistance.
3. Hold for up to 10 seconds to allow absorption of secretions.
4. Rotate 2-3 times to collect cells.
5. Remove flocked NP swab & place in UTM transport media. LEAVE SWAB IN TRANSPORT MEDIA.
7. Replace cap and screw cap to close securely.
8. Label specimen with patient name, date of birth, medical record number and specimen source (i.e. NP swab).
9. Immediately transport specimen to laboratory for testing.
10. Store and transport specimen at 2° to 8°C.

HOW TO COLLECT A NP ASPIRATE
1. Attach catheter to suction apparatus.
2. Tilt patient’s head 70°.
3. Instill several drops of sterile saline into each nostril.
4. Place catheter through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same distance as from nostrils to external opening of ear).
5. Apply gentle suction. Using rotating motion, withdraw catheter.
6. Label specimen with patient name, date of birth, medical record number and specimen source (i.e. NP aspirate).
7. Immediately transport specimen to laboratory for testing.
8. Store and transport specimen at 2° to 8°C.