Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal Swab Collection-COVID-19

Policy:

It is the policy of this facility to collect a Nasopharyngeal or Oropharyngeal Swab Specimen as recommended by Public Health, in consultation with physician and for residents demonstrating symptomatic disease.

Supplies:

- Gloves
- Gown
- Facemask or N95 Respirator
- Eye Protection (face shield, eye protection that cover sides)
- Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts
  - Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts

Procedure (If no specific Public Health directions are provided):

1. Perform Hand Hygiene
2. Gather Supplies
3. Don PPE (gown, N-95 if available or facemask, eye protection, gloves)
4. Close resident door
5. Limit only essential employees in room.
6. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab:
   a. Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate. The swab should reach depth equal to the distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.
   b. Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
   c. Slowly remove swab while rotating the swab
7. Oropharyngeal (OP) (throat) swab:
   a. Swab the posterior pharynx using caution to avoid the tongue
8. Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes that contain 2-3 ml of viral transport media
9. CDC is recommending collecting only the NP swab. If both swabs are used, the Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal swabs should be combined at collection into a single vial.
10. Oropharyngeal swabs remain an acceptable specimen type
11. A healthcare worker-collected nasal swab or nasal turbinate swab is an acceptable specimen if NP swab is not possible
12. An anterior nares specimen using a round roam swab is an acceptable alternative if NP swab is not possible
13. Remove PPE in proper sequence
14. Perform Hand Hygiene
15. Specimen can be stored at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection.
   a. If shipping to CDC, follow Public Health directions according to the current edition of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Requirements.
      i. If there is a delay in shipping, store specimens at 70°C or below.
      ii. Follow Public Health directions for shipping instructions
16. Disinfect room and surfaces with EPA list N disinfectant.
Infection Prevention and Control Manual
Interim Policy for Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal Swab Collection (COVID-19)

Reference:

Resource: