

Nasal Wash Specimen Collection for Covid-19 Testing

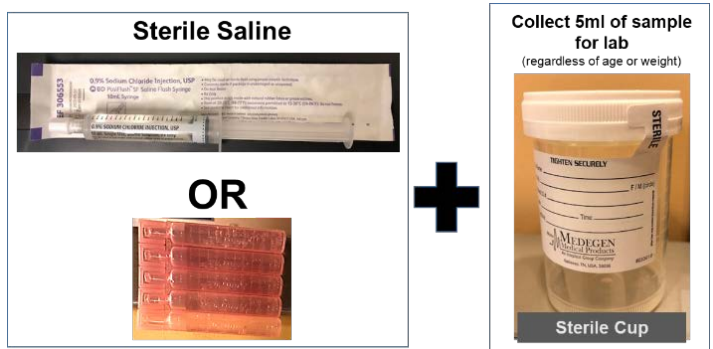
This practice is for pediatric patients who are contraindicated for OP/NP swab collection:

- Patients who are not candidates for mid-turbinate/OP or OP only
- Patients with risk of severe epistaxis (eg. Platelets <50K, severe mucositis, anticoagulation, s/p certain ENT issues)

Nasal Wash Sampling:

Pediatric patient able to follow directions: Position patient comfortably in sitting position, neck slightly hyper-extended

1. Prior to the procedure, have the patient blow their nose.
2. Using a sterile syringe, introduce 5 ml of sterile saline into one nostril
3. If possible, have the patient retain the saline for a few seconds.
4. Place specimen container directly under the nose with slight pressure on the upper lip.
5. Tilt the head forward and allow the fluid to flow into the specimen container.
6. Repeat procedure on other nostril, collecting fluid into the same container.
7. Offer the patient tissues.



Infant or patient unable to follow directions: Sit child on parent's lap facing forward, with the child's back against the parent's chest. The parent should wrap one arm around the child in a manner that will contain the child's body and arms.

1. Fill bulb syringe with 3 ml of sterile saline and instill saline into one nostril, while the head is tilted back.
2. Release the pressure on the bulb to aspirate the specimen back into the bulb.
3. Transfer the specimen into specimen container.
4. Repeat procedure on other nostril, transferring second specimen into the same specimen container.
5. Offer tissues as appropriate.



Microbiology Lab Manual Reference: <https://clinlab.ucsf.edu/microbiology-guide#Specimen%20Collection>

Inpatient algorithm:

https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/sites/g/files/tkssra4681/f/Peds%20ED_inpatient%20Algorithm_3.7.2020.pdf

Prepare algorithm:

https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/sites/g/files/tkssra4681/f/Peds_Prepare_UCSF_Health_Ambulatory_Preparation_for_Surgery_Procedures_Studies_in_Asymptomatic_Peds_Patients.pdf

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