

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: Outbreak Management	SUBJECT: Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection	SECTION: F POLICY: 9
DATE: July 12, 2022	Administrator's Signature: _____ <i>J. M!</i>	
REVISION DATES: November 2023	IPAC Lead's Signature: _____ <i>Loppola, RN.</i>	

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION

POLICY:

In an event of an outbreak, nasopharyngeal swabs will be properly collected, stored, and submitted promptly for testing if indicated.

PROCEDURE:

The IPAC Lead will:

- 1) Ensure that there are sufficient non-expired swabs in inventory.

The Nurse will:

- 1) Follow directions as outline on the nasopharyngeal swab collection kit.
- 2) Ensure that when submitting nasopharyngeal swabs for the investigation of respiratory infections:
 - Each tube or container is placed in a separate sealed biobag.
 - The shaft of the swab is cut below the level of the top of the tube to allow enough room for the cap to be screwed on tightly enough to completely seal the tube. If the shaft is too long, it interferes with proper closing of the top.
 - The cap is completely closed. Any gap will result in the sample leaking in transit to the laboratory.
- 3) Label specimen container with resident's full name and date of collection of sample and outbreak number provided by the Public Health Unit (PHU) (two identifiers are required on the resident sample, and these must also appear on the requisition sheet).
- 4) Place specimen in the biohazard bag and seal bag.
- 5) Complete the Public Health Lab requisition, including the test code, source of specimen, date of onset and collection, two resident identifiers, physician name, outbreak number and clinical diagnosis. Insert the completed requisition in the pocket on the outside of the biohazard bag.
- 6) To maintain optimum viability, the specimen should be stored and transported at 2-8°C or on wet ice to the laboratory for processing within 48 hours of collection. Place the specimen in the biohazard lab box near front office with an icepack by 1300h daily.

Nasopharyngeal Swab Method for Respiratory Virus Collection



NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION



Nasopharyngeal swab method for Respiratory Virus Collection

Anterior naris

Mid-inferior portion of inferior turbinate

Posterior pharynx

Patient's head should be inclined from vertical to about 70%

The laboratory needs high levels of organism to culture successfully for respiratory viruses such as RSV, Influenza A & B or parainfluenza virus.

A properly taken nasopharyngeal swab will yield high levels of organism.

1. Insert flexible nasopharyngeal swab into one nostril.
2. Press the swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-inferior turbinate.
3. Briefly rotate the swab once it has been inserted.
4. Leave swab in place for a few seconds to absorb material.
5. Withdraw swab and insert into transport medium.
6. Break swab shaft at score line.

N. B. Rule of thumb to determine when swab is placed properly: insert swab to one-half the distance from the tip of the nose to the tip of the earlobe.