

## Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Competency Checklist, COVID-19

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

**Note: Improperly collected specimens may lead to false test results**

Performance Criteria	Met	Not Met	Comments
Review CDC's Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Steps ( <i>attached</i> )			
Wear appropriate PPE [gown, N-95 (if not available, use surgical mask with face shield), goggles/face shield, gloves]*			
Perform hand hygiene and don new pair of gloves			
Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees			
Gently and slowly insert swab through the nostril until resistance is encountered, indicating contact with the nasopharynx. Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.			
Gently rub and roll the swab			
Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions			
Slowly remove swab while rotating it			
With the same swab, repeat process in the other nostril (not necessary if minitip is visibly wet after swabbing first nostril)			
Place swab, tip first, into the transport tube			
Break the swab handle by bending back and forth			
Screw cap on tightly			
Remove gloves and doff remaining PPE*, if applicable; perform hand hygiene			

\*Verify that donning/doffing of PPE is performed correctly: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>

**Score:** Met / Not Met (*circle one*)

Validator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Validator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# NASOPHARYNGEAL (NP) SPECIMEN COLLECTION STEPS

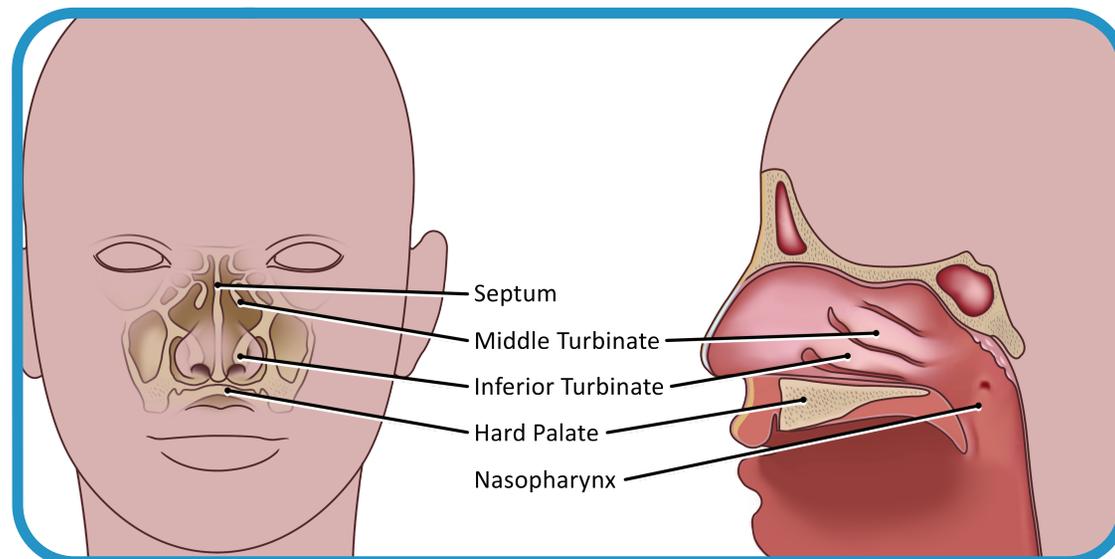


## GENERAL GUIDANCE:

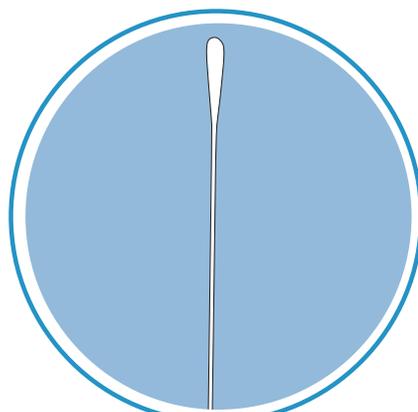
- Ensure that recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn when collecting specimens. This includes gloves, a gown, eye protection (face shield or goggles), and an N-95 or higher-level respirator (or surgical mask if a respirator is not available).
- Gloves must be changed to a new pair for each patient; properly remove old pair and discard into a biohazard waste container.



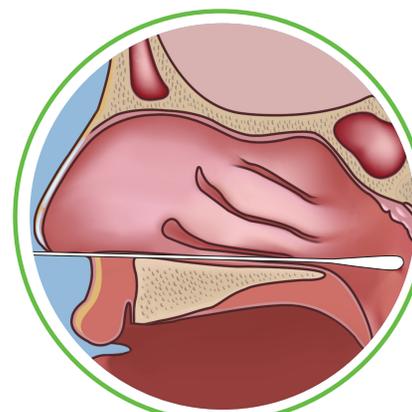
PROPER PPE



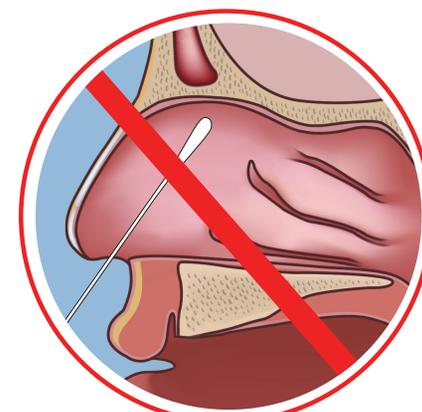
ANATOMICAL REFERENCE



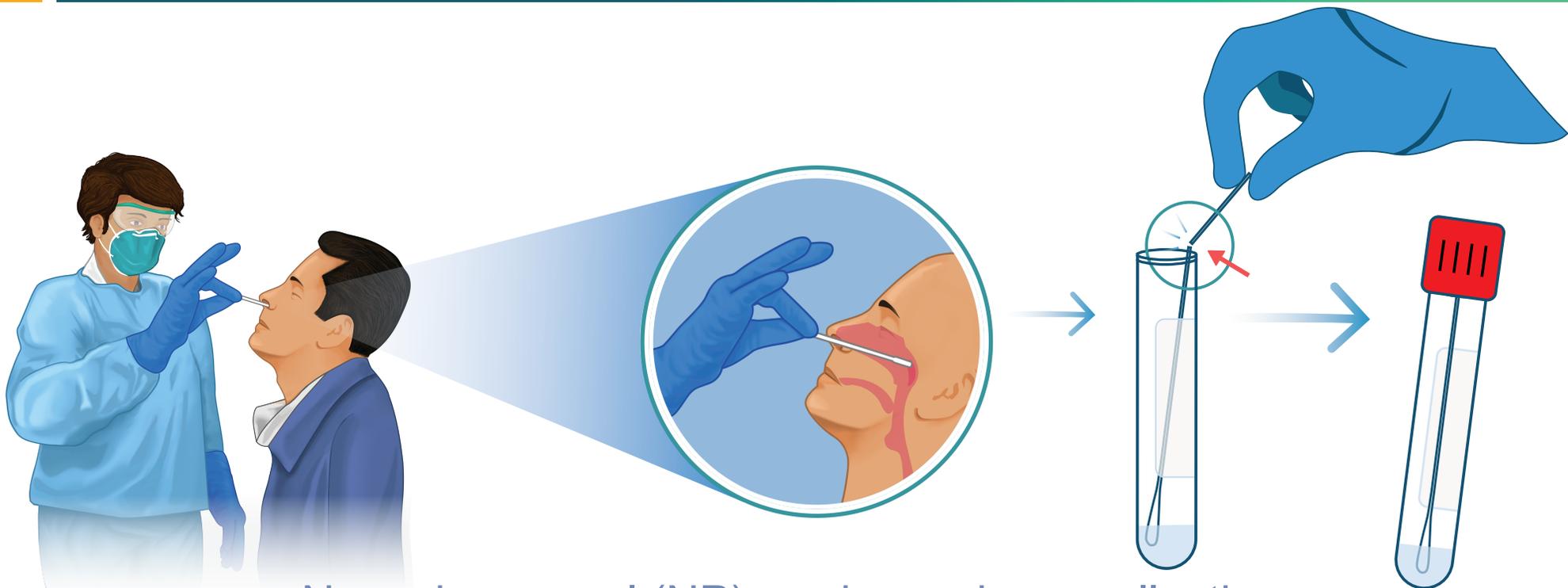
NP SWAB



PROPER SWAB PLACEMENT



IMPROPER SWAB PLACEMENT



## Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimen collection

### STEP 1

Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees. Gently and slowly insert a minitip swab with a flexible shaft through the nostril parallel to the palate until resistance is encountered.

The distance is equivalent to that from the nostril to the ear of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx.

### STEP 2

Gently rub and roll the swab, leaving it in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.

If a deviated septum or blockage creates difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril.

### STEP 3

Slowly remove swab while rotating it.

Specimens can be collected from both nostrils, but it is not necessary if the minitip swab is saturated with fluid from the first nostril.

### STEP 4

Place swab, tip first, into the transport tube provided.

Once the tip is near the bottom, break the swab handle at the swab breakpoint by bending back and forth or cut it off with sterile scissors.

The swab should fit in the tube comfortably so that the cap can be screwed on tightly to prevent leakage and contamination.