



NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB

Adult	Pediatric
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Purpose

For approved Yolo County Local Optional Scope Providers (EMT's and Paramedics) in assisting Yolo County in COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Swab testing.

Procedure

- EMS provider should wear all appropriate PPE, including: N95 mask, eye protection/face shield, gown and gloves.
- Use the flexible shaft nasopharyngeal swab provided to collect the specimen.
- Explain the procedure to the patient.
- Tilt the patient's head back 70-degrees and insert the swab into a nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from nostrils to the outer opening of the patient's ear indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
- Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove the swab while rotating it.
- Repeat the steps in opposite nostril.
- Insert the swab into the tube of universal transport medium (test tube), making certain that the swab tip is covered by the liquid in the tube, plunger the swab in the teeth of the test tube. Remove the swab and dispose of it appropriately.
- Place the test tube in the provided biohazard bag and seal the Ziplock.
- Store sample as appropriate.

Key Points

- Procedure may be uncomfortable for the patient and could induce coughing, movement, or other reactions.

