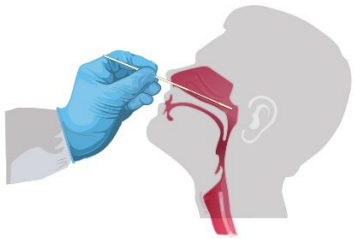
NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

Laboratory Services
Nasopharyngeal Respiratory Collection:

1. The Nasopharyngeal collection kit, provided by Laboratory Services, includes:
    a. One universal transport media tube.
    b. One sterile polyester-tipped swab is suitable for the collection of nasopharyngeal specimens. (Calcium alginate swabs and cotton swabs with wooden shafts are unacceptable.)



2. Place Nasopharyngeal swab into Viral Transport Media.
    a. Break the excess length of the swab inside the transport media at the scored break point and cap the tube tightly.
    b. Label the tube with the patient's name and date of birth.

3. Complete an electronic order. Select either "Influenza A/B/RSV/SARS CoV-2 PCR", "Influenza PCR", "Bordetella species HDA", or "Respiratory Panel."

4. Return the viral transport media to the zip-lock plastic biohazard bag that contained the collection supplies and place both the specimen and the completed request form into a category B shipping container provided by Laboratory Services.

5. Send refrigerated at 2-8ºC to:

    Biofire Respiratory Panel - send within 3 days.

    Bordetella pertussis and parapertussis - send within 4 days.

    Influenza A/B/RSV/SARS CoV-2 PCR - send within 4 days.

    Influenza Virus - send within 3 days.

    Laboratory Services
    620 East Boulevard
    Bismarck, ND 58505

- If delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70ºC and ship on dry ice.

If you have any questions regarding specimen collection, please call Kristie Schwarzkopf or Stacey Alexander at 701-328-6272.

Additional Acceptable Sample types for Influenza virus testing ONLY

- Nasal Swab – Insert dry swab into nasal passage and allow it to absorb secretions. Place swabs into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.
- Throat Swab – Vigorously rub the posterior wall of the pharynx with a dry, sterile, swab. The swab should not touch the tongue or buccal mucosa. Place the swab into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.
- Nasal Aspirate/Wash –Specimens are placed into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.
- Lower Respiratory Tract Specimens – These specimens include bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, bronchial aspirates, bronchial washes, endotracheal aspirates, endotracheal washes, tracheal aspirates, and lung tissue. Place the sample into viral transport medium. Screw the cap on tightly.
- Influenza Rapid Test Positive Samples
    - When Influenza is detected in your laboratory by RAPID TESTING methods, you may send an aliquot (minimum of 0.5 mL) of the original suspensions (NOT exposed to kit reagents).
    - Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs from patients meeting the case definition should be collected and referred regardless of rapid test results because performance of individual rapid testing methods varies.