

Respiratory Culture

Specimen Collection Instructions



Test	Quantity	Collection Materials	Temperature Requirements
Respiratory Culture (Upper)	Saturated swab or 1 mL of purulent material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile nasopharyngeal swab • ESwab™ • Amies Agar Gel Transport Swab • Sterile oropharyngeal swab 	Sample must be stored in the refrigerator at 2-8° C at all times. <i>Sample must be shipped at 2-8° C.</i>

Specimen Collection Instructions (Upper)

For Nasopharyngeal Swab:

1. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
2. Insert swab into nostril. (*Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.*) Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
3. Slowly remove swab while rotating it. (Swab both nostrils with same swab.)
4. Place tip of swab into sterile ESwab™ collection kit, and snap/cut off the applicator stick. Label with two identifiers (name and DOB), and collection date and time.
5. Replace the cap onto the tube and close tightly to prevent leaks. All specimens should be sent immediately after collection. If the specimen cannot be sent immediately, refrigerate until shipped (*do not freeze*). Specimens should be transported to Advanta according to standard operating procedures. Use coldpacks and/or coolers.

For Oropharyngeal Swab:

1. Open the collection swab wrapper by peeling open the top of the wrapper. Remove the swab, taking care not to touch the tip of the swab or lay it down.
2. Hold the swab in your hand, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the shaft across the scoreline.
3. Vigorously swab tonsillar area and posterior oropharynx using the swab. Rotate the swab several times.
4. While holding the swab in the same hand, aseptically remove the cap from the tube. Insert the swab into the tube with the transport medium.
5. Identifying the scoreline, break the swab shaft against the side of the tube. If needed, gently rotate the swab shaft to complete the breakage. Discard the top portion of the swab shaft. Avoid splashing contents on the skin. Wash with soap and water if exposed.
6. Replace the cap onto the tube and close tightly to prevent leaks. Label with two identifiers (name and DOB), and collection date and time. All specimens should be sent immediately after collection. If the specimen cannot be sent immediately, refrigerate until shipped (*do not freeze*). Specimens should be transported to Advanta according to standard operating procedures. Use coldpacks and/or coolers.

For Amies Agar Gel Transport Swab:

1. Open the collection swab wrapper by peeling open the top of the wrapper. Remove the swab, taking care not to touch the tip of the swab or lay it down.
2. Hold the shaft of the swab by the end with the colored cap.
3. Vigorously swab tonsillar area and posterior oropharynx using the swab. Rotate the swab several times.
4. While holding the swab in the same hand, insert the swab firmly into the agar gel in the transport tube. The swab should remain attached to the colored cap.
5. Ensure the transport tube is closed tightly to prevent leaks. Label container with two patient identifiers such as name and date of birth, and the collection date and time. All specimens should be sent immediately after collection. If the specimen cannot be sent immediately, refrigerate until shipped (*do not freeze*). Specimens should be transported to the laboratory according to standard operating procedures.

Respiratory Culture

Specimen Collection Instructions



Test	Quantity	Collection Materials	Temperature Requirements
Respiratory Culture (Lower)	Saturated swab or 1 mL of purulent material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expectorated sputum (any amount)• BAL• Tracheal aspirate	Sample must be stored in the refrigerator at 2-8° C at all times. <i>Sample must be shipped at 2-8° C.</i>

Specimen Collection Instructions (Lower)

For Nasopharyngeal Swab:

1. Place desired specimen into a sterile, screw capped container and parafilm.
2. Label container with two patient identifiers such as name, date of birth, and the collection date and time.
3. Ship to laboratory as soon as possible.

THE HUMAN ADVANTAGE
IN LABORATORY TESTING

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