

## ADULT NASAL SWAB COLLECTION GUIDE

### Equipment

- **PCR/Influenza/H1N1** – **Nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate required** -UTM Viral Transport Medium
- **MICROSCOPY & CULTURE** – General Microscopy & Culture Kit
- Goggles and N95 particulate Mask
- Gloves

### Specimen Collection Procedure

1. Explain procedure and obtain consent from patient.
2. Patient should be lying down or head tilted back resting against wall as they have a tendency to pull head back during this procedure.
3. Wash hands or use handrub. Apply gloves.
4. If nasal passage is dry, and for comfort of patient as this also works as a lubricant, moisten the swab stick a little with the normal saline.
5. Stand to one side of tilted head and back slightly.
6. Using a pencil grip insert the swab tip into the nostril as far as the anterior end of the nasal turbinate, parallel to the palate (Approximately 2 – 3 cm in adults)
7. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds then slowly withdraw using a rotating motion.
8. Put the swab directly into transport tube.
9. Label the tube with patient's details, time, date and source of specimen.
10. Wash Hands or use handrub
11. Place specimen and request form in specimen transport bag and send to the laboratory