NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

**Vacuum-assisted Nasopharyngeal Aspirate Method**

**Materials:**
- Suction outlet (portable/wall)
- Sterile suction catheter
- Mucus trap (i.e., Luken’s tube)

1. Attach mucus trap to suction outlet and catheter, leaving wrapper on suction catheter; turn on suction and adjust to unmitigated pressure.
2. Without applying suction, insert catheter into the nose, directed posteriorly and toward the opening of the external ear. **NOTE:** Depth of insertion necessary to reach posterior nasopharynx is equivalent to distance between anterior nares and external opening of the ear.
3. Apply suction. Using a rotating movement, slowly withdraw catheter. **NOTE:** Catheter should remain in nasopharynx for a minimal period of time, not to exceed 10 sec.
4. Hold trap upright to prevent secretions from going into pump.
5. Rinse catheter (if necessary) with approximately 2.0 mL UVT; disconnect suction; connect tubing to arm of mucus trap to seal.
6. Repeating procedure for the second nostril will deliver optimal combined sample.
7. After collection, immediately transport specimen to the laboratory for viral testing and viral antigen detection. If transport to the laboratory is delayed, place specimen on ice or in refrigeration.

**Nasopharyngeal Swab Method**

**Materials:**
- Flexible Minipin Flocked Swab 1-3 mL BD™ Universal Viral Transport (UVT)

1. Insert swab into one nostril.
2. Rotate swab over surface of posterior nasopharynx.
3. Withdraw swab from collection site; insert into transport tube containing 1 mL or less of transport media to allow specimen to drain into suitable sterile container.
4. In appropriate cases, patients may tilt head forward to allow specimen to rapidly drain.
5. After collection, immediately transport specimen to the laboratory for viral testing and viral antigen detection. If transport to the laboratory is delayed, place specimen on ice or in refrigeration.

**Nasopharyngeal Wash: Syringe Method**

**Materials:**
- Saline 3-5 mL syringe
- 2” Sterile NG tube 8-french BD™ Universal Viral Transport (UVT)

1. Fill syringe with saline; attach tube to syringe tip.
2. Quickly instill saline into nostril.
3a. Aspirate the recoverable nasopharyngeal specimen. **NOTE:** Recovery must occur immediately, as the instilled fluid will rapidly drain.
3b. (Alternate) In appropriate cases, patients may til head forward to allow specimen to drain into suitable sterile container.
4. (If aspirated) Inject aspirated specimen from syringe into sterile specimen container with suitable UVT, according to virology laboratory requirements.
5. Repeating procedure for the second nostril will deliver optimal combined sample.
6. After collection, immediately transport specimen to the laboratory for viral testing and viral antigen detection. If transport to the laboratory is delayed, place specimen on ice or in refrigeration. **Length and diameter of syringe and tubing as appropriate for infant, child or adult.**

**Nasopharyngeal Wash: Bulb Method**

**Materials:**
- 1-2 oz. tapered sterile rubber bulb
- BD™ Universal Viral Transport (UVT)

1. Suction 3-5 mL saline into a new sterile bulb.
2. Insert bulb into one nostril until nostril is occluded.
3. Instill saline into nostril with one squeeze of the bulb and immediately release bulb to collect recoverable nasal specimen.
4. Empty bulb into sterile specimen container with suitable UVT, according to virology laboratory requirements.
5. Repeating procedure for the second nostril will deliver optimal combined sample.
6. After collection, immediately transport specimen to the laboratory for viral testing and viral antigen detection. If transport to the laboratory is delayed, place specimen on ice or in refrigeration. **Length and diameter of bulb as appropriate for infant, child or adult.**

**BD™ Universal Viral Transport System**

**Cat. No.**
- 220220 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport, 3 mL vial**
- 220221 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Standard Kit:**
- 220222 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Combo Kit:**
- 220239 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport 2**
- 220240 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport combo polymer swab:**
- 220244 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport, 1 mL vial**
- 220252 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Kit:**
- 220257 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Kit:**
- 220258 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Kit:**
- 220259 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Kit:**
- 220260 **BD™ Universal Viral Transport Kit:**

**BD Veritor™ System**

**Cat. No.**
- 250055 **BD Veritor™ System Reader**
- 250085 **BD Veritor™ System Flu A+B**
- 250041 **BD Veritor™ System Flu A+B Moderately Complex Kit**
- 250082 **BD Veritor™ System RSV**
- 250085 **BD Veritor™ System RSV (Dry Swab)**
- 250038 **BD Veritor™ System RSV**

**NOTE: Depth of insertion necessary to reach posterior nasopharynx is equivalent to distance between anterior nares and external opening of the ear.**