

## Ordering the right virus swabs

Swabs are available through Propharma as follows:

- Blue dry pernasal MW160 Oracle order code 147201
- Green virus transport swab MW950S Oracle order code 108578  
(same as for obsolescent soft tube swab MW950)

### Pernasal swabs

There are two types of flexible wire swabs available:

- Blue topped swabs in a dry tube (MW160): these can be returned dry in the original plastic tube or in the virus transport medium from a green top swab (MW950). These can be tested by PCR for Influenza or Pertussis.
- Orange top swabs from Pathlab (Micro Rheologics / Copan 553C): if you have these, the Waikato Hospital Laboratory can process them. Viral culture, Influenza PCR and Pertussis PCR can be done from them.

### Green top rigid swabs

There are two types in use:

- Green capped swabs with a soft plastic tube containing virus transport medium in a sponge (MW950): these are being superseded but are alright to use.
- White sponge tipped snapable swab with rigid green screw cap tube containing liquid virus transport medium (Sigma-Virocult MW950S): these are replacing the soft tube swabs. They can be tested by virus culture or PCR and are much more efficient to process in the lab.