

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SWABS

For Winter 2010

Collect two swabs

If only one swab is sent, then Influenza PCR will not be performed.

For adults, one should be a nasopharyngeal swab.

For paediatrics, two low nose swabs.

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS

Use **Blue flexible pernasal swab NO GEL.**

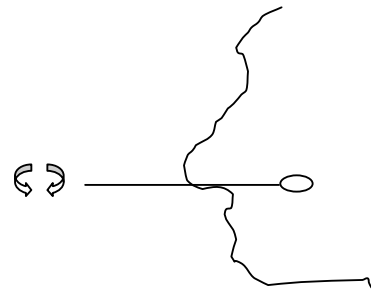
Oracle order code 147201

This test is the most uncomfortable.

Rest back of patient's head against wall or bed.

Insert swab 4-5 cm into nose in horizontal direction.

Rotate swab 3 x each way.



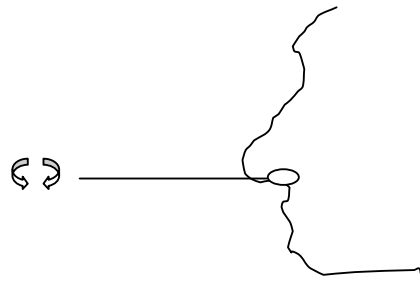
LOW NOSE SWABS

Use **Green top virus tube, rigid swab.**

Oracle order code 108578

Insert swab 2 cm into nose, but not so far as to be uncomfortable.

Rotate 2-3 x each way.



SENSITIVITY OF VIRAL SPECIMENS

Most sensitive

Nasopharyngeal Aspirate

Nasopharyngeal Swab

Low Nose Swab

Throat Swab



Least sensitive

Jenni Lindeman Ext 8530
Chris Mansell 021 833 783