



<b>Document #:</b> <b>CO-1</b>		<b>Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)</b> <b>for:</b> <b>Nasopharyngeal Swab (NP)</b>	Status: v.2 Revised: March 18, 2020
<b>For COVID-19</b>			Page 1 of 2

## The Process:

<b>Step</b>	<b>Instructions</b>  
Before You Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to any sampling, the collector should perform hand hygiene and don personal protective equipment including gown, gloves, eye shield and surgical or procedure mask</li> </ul>

Step	Instructions
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the patient blow their nose</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the patient tilt their head back slightly and close their eyes</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insert the swab along the nasal septum at a slightly downward angle, following parallel to the palate until resistance is felt against the posterior nasopharynx.</li> <li>• <b>Caution!</b> Insertion of approximately 4 cm in young children and 7 cm in adults</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotate the swab gently back and forth 2-3 times in this spot (for no more than 10-15 seconds)</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the swab, cut, and place in sample container ensuring the lid is securely closed</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove PPE per protocol</li> </ul>

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**Standard  
Operating  
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for:  
Nasopharyngeal  
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### Protocol Algorithm for Swabbing- 6 Steps

**Before you Start!**

Prior to any sampling, the collector should perform hand hygiene and don personal protective equipment including gown, gloves, eye shield and surgical or procedure mask

**Step 1:**  
Have the patient blow their nose

**Step 2:**  
Have the patient tilt their head back slightly and close their eyes

**Step 3:**  
Insert the swab along the nasal septum at a slightly downward angle, following parallel to the palate until resistance is felt against the posterior nasopharynx

**Caution!**  
Insertion of approximately 4 cm in young children and 7 cm in adults

**Step 4:**  
Rotate the swab in this spot for 10-15 seconds

**Step 5:**  
Remove the swab, cut, and place in sample container ensuring the lid is securely closed

**Step 6:**  
Remove PPE per protocol