

# UNIVERSAL VIRAL TRANSPORT MEDIA



Viral Transport Media (VTM) will be distributed based on test utilization. Viral Transport Media for specimens submitted to FPL can be obtained by contacting client services at 407-303-8561.

FPL is unable to provide viral culture kits for Rapid Flu testing performed in the physician office.



## Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection for Respiratory Virus Testing



### Glossary

**Antibodies (AB)** IgG and IgM are proteins found in the blood that indicate if a person has an active infection or prior immunity to bacteria or viruses. Serum levels are often measured to determine the effectiveness of a vaccination.

**Antigen (AG)** is a substance that prompts the generation of antibodies and can cause an immune response.

**Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA)** is a laboratory test that uses cells collected from the patients to detect the presence of a virus.

**Novel H1N1 Influenza** is a subtype of influenza virus A; also known as swine-flu. Influenza-like illness (ILI), also known as acute respiratory infection and flu-like syndrome, is a medical diagnosis of possible influenza.

**Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** is a technique to amplify copies of a DNA found in a bodily fluid or blood. Viral DNA can be detected by PCR. The high sensitivity of PCR permits virus detection soon after infection.

**Viral Transport Media (VTM)**, also called Universal Transport Media (UTM) is a nutrient-rich fluid designed to support viruses. It contains antibiotics that prevent bacterial growth.

## A Guide for Providers

FPL Test Collection Information

### Indicate Source of Collection

Test Description	Lab Code	Collection Kit
H1N1 PCR*	FLUPCR	*Universal Viral Transport Media
Virus Culture	VIRCUL	*Universal Viral Transport Media
Virus DFA	VIRDE	*Universal Viral Transport Media

\* Sample cannot be shared for PCR testing. If another test is ordered in conjunction with the PCR test, two samples must be collected



Your Lab for *Life*

# Instructions for Collecting Nasopharyngeal Swab Specimens



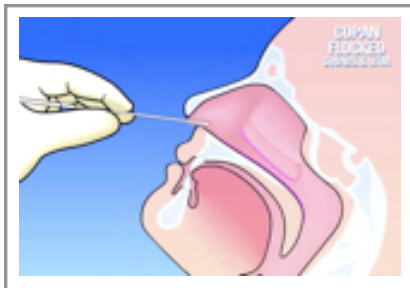
## Step 1:

Collect the specimen by carefully passing the nasopharyngeal swab through the nares until resistance is met by virtue of contact with the nasopharynx. Do not force the swab, if obstruction is encountered, remove the swab and try the other side.



## Step 2:

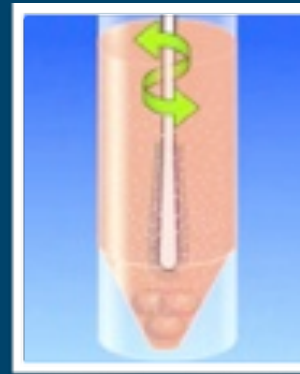
It is critical that you allow adequate time for absorption of nasal secretions. We recommend 10-30 seconds of contact while rotating swab.



## Step 3:

Carefully remove the swab. For optimal sample, repeat procedure using other nostril. Use separate swab for each nostril.

## Step 4:

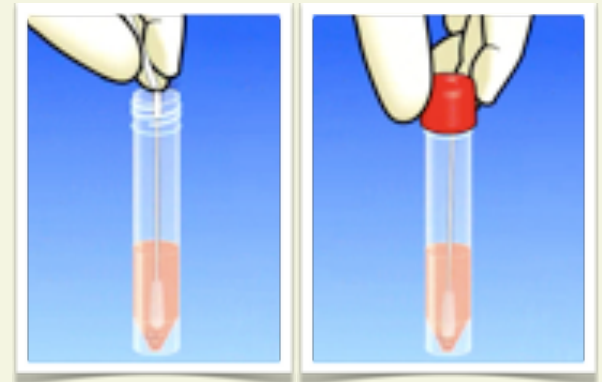


Immediately inoculate viral transport media by inserting the swab at least 1/2 inch below the surface of the media.

**If swabs for each nostril are collected, place both into media.**

**Remember sample cannot be shared for PCR testing. If another test is ordered in conjunction with the PCR test, two samples must be collected.**

## Step 5:



1. Finally, break swab at painted breakpoint to fit the transport medium tube and reattach the cap securely. If a swab with a wire shaft is used, this should be either broken or bent to fit into the transport tube. A dry swab is NOT acceptable for testing.
2. Label the sample with first and last name, date of collection and source of collection.
3. Complete FPL Requisition by writing the name of test and source of specimen under Additional Tests Section.
3. Refrigerate sample and contact FPL Client Services for courier pick-up at 407-303-8561.

## Optional Collection (Pediatric Patients Only)

On very young pediatric patients the size of the nasal passage may prohibit nasal swab collection.

If this is a concern, a nasal aspirate may be collected and sample placed into the Viral transport media.

A minimum of 0.35 mL nasal aspirate is required for testing.



**Remember to wear appropriate PPE when collecting samples.**

