Respiratory Swab Collection
Collection of Respiratory Swabs

This presentation will cover 4 main issues:

- Collection of good quality respiratory specimens
- Maintenance of infection control
- Recording of patient information and documentation
- Ensuring patient comfort
Collection of Respiratory Swabs

It is important to understand that the methods explained in this presentation can be applied to the collection of nose and throat swabs from any respiratory viruses.
Collection of Respiratory Swabs

Before collecting specimens:

- Be aware of the virulence of the virus (can change year to year)
- Be aware of the infectiousness of the virus.
- Refer to current state government guidelines on infection control
Equipment required for collection

- Alcohol based hand rub (if soap and water not available)
- Appropriate masks
- Gloves
- Disposable Gowns
- Eye Protection
- Waste disposal bag
- Pen
- Paperwork – request forms
- Viral swabs – throat and nose
- Specimen bag
- Box of tissues
Viral Swabs

1 green capped viral transport tube per specimen
Insert video footage of Green Transport Swab in packet
UTM tube and flocked swab
Insert video footage of UTM tube in packet
Video Footage inserted here
Collection of Respiratory Swabs

If patient is symptomatic:

- Ask them to put on a mask and give them alcohol based hand rub

For all patients:

- Explain risks of coughing or sneezing
- Explain what you are about to do
Documentation

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Date (+/- time) of collection
- Required test
- Description of symptoms
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Names of contacts and or recent travel history
- Vaccination status
- Contact with any PHU
Sequence of Donning PPE

Wash Hands

Gown

Mask

Eye protection

Gloves
Insert video of putting on a gown
Sequence of Donning PPE

1. Wash Hands
2. Gown
3. Mask
4. Eye protection
5. Gloves
Add screen shot of different types of mask ie:- Elastic sides and tie back

- Loop
- String
- P2
Insert video footage of putting on a mask
Sequence of Donning PPE

1. Wash Hands
2. Gown
3. Mask
4. Eye protection
5. Gloves
Add screen shot of different types of eye protective equipment

- Screen shot of different types of eye protection
- Goggles
- Facesheild x 2
- Slash glasses
Insert video footage of putting on eye protection
Sequence of Donning PPE

1. Wash Hands
2. Gown
3. Mask
4. Eye protection
5. Gloves
Insert video footage of putting on gloves
Collecting swabs

- Ask patient to remove their mask and dispose of it properly
- Perform identity check
- Ask patient stand with back of head against a wall or the back of a chair
Collecting Swabs - Important!

- To ensure a good quality specimen for the identification of respiratory viruses, it is important to collect epithelial cells from the nasal septum and the pharynx

- Try to avoid collecting nasal secretions and saliva
Insert video footage of collecting a nasal swab
Collecting a Nasal Swab

- Stand at side of patient
- Place non dominant hand on forehead and thumb at tip of nose
- Insert viral swab into the nearest nostril, horizontally, approx 2cm
- Place sideways pressure on the swab to collect epithelial cells from the midline nasal septum and rotate swab two or three times
- Place swab directly into tube
A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx.
Insert video footage of collecting a throat swab.
Collecting a Throat Swab

- Stand at side of the patient
- Place non dominant hand on forehead, ask patient to open their mouth widely and say aaah
- Insert swab into mouth avoiding any saliva
- Place sideways pressure on the swab to collect cells from behind the faucal pillars at the side of the pharynx and rotate swab twice
- Place swab directly into tube
Throat is swabbed in the area of the tonsils
Sequence of Removing PPE

1. Gloves
2. Wash Hands
3. Eye protection
4. Gown
5. Wash Hands
6. Mask
7. Wash Hands
Insert video footage of removing gloves
Insert footage of providing tissues to patient and a new mask
Sequence of Removing PPE

1. Gloves
2. Wash Hands
3. Eye protection
4. Gown
5. Wash Hands
6. Mask
7. Wash Hands
Insert video footage of removing protective eyewear.
Sequence of Removing PPE

- Gloves
- Wash Hands
- Eye protection
- Gown
- Wash Hands
- Mask
- Wash Hands
Insert video footage of removing a gown.
Sequence of Removing PPE

1. Gloves
2. Wash Hands
3. Eye protection
4. Gown
5. Wash Hands
6. Mask
7. Wash Hands
Insert video footage of removing mask.
Finally:

- Arrange transfer of specimens to laboratory as soon as possible

- Store and transport specimens at 4-8 degrees C