Respiratory Specimen Collection Training Exercise

Learning Objectives

1. Collect good nasal and throat swabs for respiratory virus testing.
2. Complete the necessary documentation.
3. Complete the procedure, maintaining safety of the collector and the patient at all times.

Time Required

30 minutes

Equipment Requirements

Learning resources	☐ Computer with screen or projector to watch the training video (1 for group) ☐ Printed Handout: *Collection of nasal and throat swabs for respiratory virus testing*. (1 each) ☐ Access to training video.
Personal Protective Equipment for collector	☐ Gown (1 each) ☐ Surgical mask (1 each) ☐ Protective eyewear (1 each) ☐ Gloves (1 pair each) ☐ Hand hygiene product (1 bottle per pair) ☐ Waste disposal bag (1 per pair)
Equipment for patient	☐ Surgical mask (2 each) ☐ Tissues
Specimen collection equipment	☐ Viral transport swab kits (2 each) ☐ Specimen biohazard bags (1 each) ☐ Laboratory request form (1 each) ☐ Pen (1 each)

Group Size

The exercise should be completed in small groups of between 2 and 10 people. The practice activity should be performed in pairs, with each participant acting as collector and as patient in turns.

Steps

1. In a small group watch the short video: *Respiratory Specimen Collection*.
2. In your group discuss the video.
3. In pairs practise the procedure, take turns of being the collector and the patient. The 'patient' should closely observe the collector to ensure that all steps in the procedure are properly followed. Practise all steps of the procedure including; preparing the room, preparing the healthcare worker, preparing the patient, specimen collection, removing PPE and specimen handling.
4. After practising, discuss any difficulties you experienced or questions you have with the rest of your group.

Outcomes

After completing this exercise you should:
1. Understand the principles of collecting good nasal and throat swabs.
2. Be able to perform the procedure in a way that is safe for the patient and the collector.