

Respiratory Virus Testing

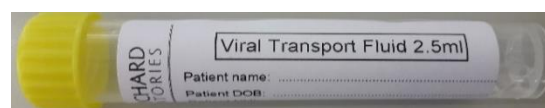


Canterbury Health
Laboratories
www.chl.co.nz | 0800THELAB

Staff Information – for nasopharyngeal (NP) swab tests

Swabs and viral transport medium (VTM)

Use a synthetic fibre tipped nasopharyngeal swab (paediatric NP swabs are available on request). This will be placed into VTM for transport.



Obtaining swabs and VTM

Christchurch Hospital: contact AMAU

Ashburton Hospital: contact ext 28825

All other Hospitals: contact LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE ext 80484

VTM can be stored at room temperature

Method

- Wear appropriate PPE
- Patient is only to blow nose if they have a blocked nose sensation
- Insert swab into **one** nostril. The swab tip must extend well beyond the anterior nares until some resistance is met (see diagram)
- Press on swab tip and rotate the swab tip gently at least two times across the mucosal surface to collect cellular material
- Break swab into VTM provided and **recap securely to prevent leakage**
- Label with patient's full name, date of birth AND/OR NHI number, and collection time and date
- Enclose the request with your specimen and send to Canterbury Health Laboratories

