



Influenza and RSV Testing: Winter 2019

Hospitals only

Hospital specimen types and collection protocol with regards to these two viruses for the winter season of 2019. Please refer to the “**Management of adults with acute Flu/Flu-like symptoms across hospital sites**” document for testing criteria.

All testing is done using an Influenza A & B / RSV high sensitivity multiplex molecular assay.

(Community influenza testing swabs see: <http://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/collection-guides/>)

Acceptable samples:

- 1) **Nasopharyngeal swab placed in Universal Transport Medium (UTM).** The required nasopharyngeal swab is in the collection kit.



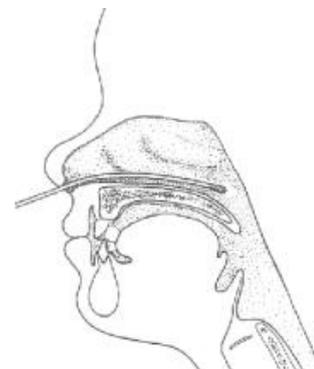
(Note: the UTM collection kit packaging indicates it can be used for a variety of other tests, but Pathlab will **ONLY** use it for Influenza, RSV, and respiratory virus testing.)

- 2) **Nasopharyngeal Aspirate (NPA)**

Please note that throat swabs and nasal swabs have sub-optimal sensitivity for respiratory virus PCR and will not be processed.

Procedure for taking a nasopharyngeal swab:

- The patient can either lie flat on a bed or sit up with his/her head back against a wall.
- **The nasopharyngeal swab is slowly inserted through the nose into the upper pharyngeal cavity. It should pass along the floor of the nasal passage (parallel to the palate) in order to minimise the risk of damage to the nasopharyngeal roof. (see diagram)**
- If any resistance is felt, try the other side. Some patients have a deviated septum on one side.



If there are any queries with regards to the above testing protocol please contact the microbiology department.

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