

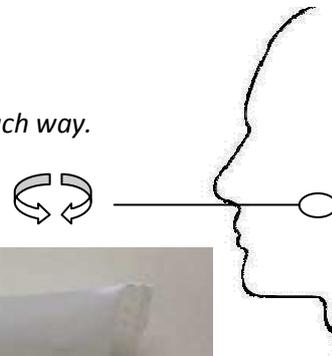
RESPIRATORY VIRUS SWABS from the Community - Winter 2015 (Including Influenza & RSV Testing)

Respiratory virus swabs from the community setting are tested at Waikato DHB laboratory.
One swab only is required.

ADULTS: NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB

Insert swab 4-5cm into nose in horizontal direction, rotate swab 3 times each way.

Use a flexible pernasal swab (**without gel**). Example below.



PAEDIATRICS (<5yrs): LOW NOSE SWAB

Insert 2 cm into nose and rotate 2-3 times each way

Use Green top virus tube, rigid swab.



Place swab into a tube of virus transport medium.

Clinical Indications for Respiratory Virus testing in the community:

Laboratory testing for respiratory viruses in the community setting should be restricted to those patients where the result is likely to have an impact on patient management, e.g. patients with significant respiratory symptoms who fall into the following cohorts:

- Extremes of age
- Immunocompromised
- Multiple co-morbidities

Unacceptable Specimens

Please note that the following swabs will not be tested for respiratory viruses:

- Any throat swabs
- Nasal swabs from adults

Dr Chris Mansell
Clinical Microbiologist
Waikato Hospital
021 833 783

Dr Michael Addidle
Clinical Microbiologist
Pathlab / LSR
021 266 2623

CLINICAL UPDATE