



# ADVANCED GENOMICS

## Innovative Diagnostics

### **NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN PANEL (RPP) TEST**

#### **I. Kit Contents**

- Sterile Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab
- Viral Transport Medium (VTM) Tube
- Biohazard Specimen Bag

#### **II. Specimen Identification and Labeling**

- Collection date
- Patient name
- DOB
- Gender

#### **III. Collectors Instructions**

- The specimen collector must wear proper PPE (mask, eye protection, gown, gloves).
- Check the Kit for any obstructions or damage.
- Label the container using the identifiers stated above.
- Remove the swab from the plastic packaging and discard the packaging.
- Tilt the patient's head back 70 degrees so that the nasal passage becomes more accessible.

- Instruct the patient to close their eyes to lessen the mild discomfort of the procedure.
- Gently and slowly insert the swab with a flexible shaft through the nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
- Gently rub and roll the swab for 10 to 15 seconds.
- Gently remove the swab while rotating it.
- Repeat in the other nostril.
- Unscrew the cap of the tube and insert swab into the VTM tube, brush first.
- Break off the shaft of swab at the rim of the vial by bending it at the perforation.
- Discard the remainder of the shaft.
- Screw the cap tightly.

**NOTE:**

- Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the swab is saturated with fluid from the first collection.
- If a deviated septum or blockage creates difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril.

**IV. Storage and Stability**

- RPP is stable up to 48 hours at Room Temperature after collection.
- RPP is stable up to 96 hours at 2 to 8C after collection.

**V. Specimen Shipping Instructions**

- It is recommended to ship out the samples to the laboratory on the day of collection.
- Place the specimen in the zipper portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal.
- Fold the following documents and place them in the outer pocket of the specimen bag:
  - Complete laboratory requisition
  - Demographics sheet
  - Medical progress notes
  - Any other supporting documentation
- Place all sealed biohazard specimen bags into a FedEx Pak.
- Seal the FedEx Pak by removing the adhesive strip and folding over.
- Place a shipping label on the outside of the FedEx Pak.
- Call FedEx to schedule a pickup.

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