

COVID Unit MRSA Nasal Swab Testing

****MRSA Nasal swabs will be ordered on select COVID-19 patients who are requiring MRSA antibiotic coverage for pneumonia. Results of this test can be used to discontinue anti-MRSA agents in many of these patients****

After a swab is ordered, please collect during the next scheduled entry into the patient's room. This is NOT an aerosol-generating procedure: N95 masks not required, unless there is an alternative indication

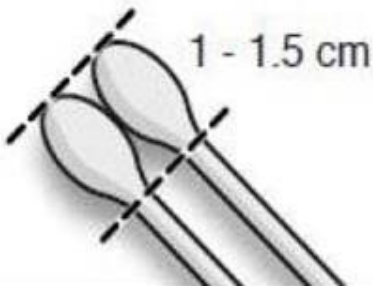
Image below of Copan swabs required for testing. (No alternative swabs will work for this test)



SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Instruct patient to blow his/her nose before collection of the sample to remove excess mucous and blood.
2. Ask the patient to tilt his/her head back.
3. **Insert BOTH swabs at the SAME TIME into the nostril** (about 1-2cm on an adult which is about the length of the fingernail from the cuticle to the tip of the finger) without touching anything but the inside or anterior part of the nostril.
4. Rotate the swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds. Apply slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose to help assure good contact between the swab and the inside of the nose.
5. Using the same swabs, repeat steps 1 and 2 for the second nostril
6. Remove the plastic transport tube. Twist off the tube cap and discard it. Place the swabs into the plastic transport tube. The swabs should go all the way into the tube until they rest on top of the sponge at the bottom of the tube. Secure the red cap tightly. The swabs should always stay attached to the red cap.
7. Label the plastic transport tube per policy to include, date and time of collection and Source = Nasal.

Insert the swabs
only 1-1.5 cm.



SPECIMEN TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

1. Specimens should be submitted at room temperature within 24 hours of collection.
2. Specimens can be stored at room temperature for up to 24 hours or refrigerated up to five (5) days.
3. After collection, specimens should be delivered to microbiology lab by unit runners

REJECTION CRITERIA

1. Only one Copan swab is submitted for testing (2 swabs connected in each test kit and should not be separated).
2. Specimen received without proper patient identification.
3. **Submission of any other type of swab other than the validated Copan swab.**

**MRSA nasal swab Copan test kits are available in the microbiology lab and can be restocked by unit runners. Please call microbiology at 5-8761 and materials will be prepared and ready for runner pickup.