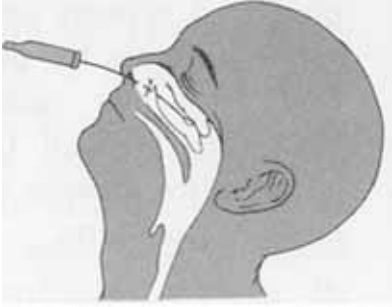


How to Collect a Naso-Pharyngeal Swab

When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used for diagnosis of viral respiratory infections• Can be used to diagnose influenza• Should be collected as early as possible after onset of symptoms• Proper collection vital to good diagnosis	
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate PPE should be worn: gloves and mask and eye protection• Patients head should be inclined• Insert long narrow wire swab with tiny cotton tip into one nostril.• Press swab onto mucosal surface of mid-inferior turbinate• Rub back and forth 4 or 5 times• Allow swab to sit for a few seconds to absorb fluid material• Remove swab and insert into supplied transport media• Follow lab instructions for storage and transportation <p>Hint: swab is properly placed when approx half the distance from the tip of the nose to the tip of the earlobe</p>	



For more information, call
the HealthACTION Line
at 1-800-660-5853 or 345-5685
or visit our website at
www.healthunit.org