

Respiratory Test Collection Guide

Proper specimen collection is the most important step in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases.

- 1 COLLECTION:** Carefully insert a mini-tip swab with a flexible shaft through the nostril, parallel to the palate, until you meet resistance or reach the distance from the ear to the nostril, indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
- 2** Gently rub and roll the swab. Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.
- 3** Slowly remove swab while rotating it. Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the mini-tip is saturated with fluid from the first collection.
- 4** If a deviated septum or blockage create difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril.
- 5 TRANSFER TO TUBE:** Place swab, tip first, into the transport tube (*Blue cap*) provided along with completed requisition form.

