COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal Swab

**PREPARE THE PATIENT AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PROCEDURE**

1. Explain the procedure and give reassurance
2. Layout the equipment and position an absorbent pad over patient’s chest
3. Have patient blow nose, then perform a visual inspection of nasal cavities

**PROCEDURE**

4. Patient tilt head back
5. Insert swab into nostril until expected depth has been reached
6. Hold swab in position for a few seconds to absorb secretions, then pull out slowly
7. Place swab in transport media vial, break shaft and tighten lid

**POST-PROCEDURE**

8. Dispose of broken shaft into sharps container
9. Disinfect vial, stick on the label and place in laboratory biohazard transport bag
10. Disinfect laboratory biohazard transport bag and follow facility transport protocols
11. Clean procedure area and provide care to the patient as needed

**ITEMS REQUIRED:**
- Nasopharyngeal swab and universal transport media tube
- EPA-approved disinfectant wipes
- Waste container lined with a waste bag
- Lab transport biohazard bags
- Patient Identification labels
- Permanent ink ballpoint pen
- Flashlight
- Facial tissues
- Appropriate PPE
- Alcohol-based hand rub
- Absorbent pads
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