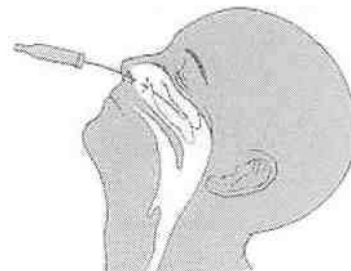


## Influenza Collection Protocol ©

Patients require a nasopharyngeal swab which should be put into one pink / orange Viral Transport Media (VTM) tube.

### ***Nasopharyngeal Swab***

Use a plastic shafted nasopharyngeal swab (flocked tip):



1. Label sample tube with patient name, NHI number (if known), date of birth and date of collection.
2. Insert swab into one nostril, parallel to the palate, rotate gently and advance until resistance is felt (one eye often waters when swab is in correct position). See images below of adult and child swabs.
3. Press swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-interior turbinate (see diagram), leave in place for a few seconds, and then slowly withdraw with a rotating motion.
4. Place tip of swab back into swab collection tube containing VTM and carefully snap at the molded break point.
5. Close the lid tightly.
6. Place the sample tube in a plastic specimen bag, then double-bag for protection against spillage.
7. The sample in VTM should be delivered to the laboratory promptly.

Swabs and VTM are available by contacting CHLabs Client Services (email: [labinfo@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:labinfo@cdhb.govt.nz)) or 03 3640484 (80484).

***Christchurch Hospital wards are able to collect swabs and VTM from AMAU.***

