


MEMORANDUM

TO: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Managers, Nurse Educators, Respiratory Therapists, Infection Prevention and Control Professionals, Administrators at Long Term Care Facilities.

FROM: Greg German, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Medical Microbiologist
Microbiology Division Head.

DATE: October 30, 2013

RE: **Collection of Nasopharyngeal Samples** 

The collection of nasopharyngeal samples for microbiological testing is accomplished through the collection of a nasopharyngeal aspirate or a nasopharyngeal swab. A throat swab or any routine bacteria swab is not acceptable for virus identification.

In order to determine the most appropriate sample to collect the following should be used:

Patients under the age of 13 should have a nasopharyngeal aspirate collected.

Patients age 13 and over should have a nasopharyngeal swab collected, with the exception of those patients in an intensive care unit where there is no preference.

For appropriate specimen collection technique, please see goo.gl/vec5Xb which was kindly produced by our colleagues in Halifax.

Please contact me at (902) 894 -2439 if you have questions or concerns.

pc: Jamie MacDonald
Bill Bylhouwer
Brian Timmons
Barb MacEachern
Dr. Humaira Khanam.