1. Enter the test order for the patient into the Molecular Provider Portal.

2. Once the order is submitted, fill out the specimen label as directed.

3. The patient should not eat, drink, smoke, or use oral hygiene products for at least 30 minutes before the start of the collection procedure.

4. Apply the specimen label created in step 2 to the specimen collection tube.

5. Remove the swab from the package and pinch the swab below the break indicator line. Do not touch the cotton tip. (IMG: A)

6. Insert the swab 1 and 1/4 inch into right nostril. While rotating the swab scrub the walls of the right nostril for 10 seconds. Repeat in left nostril. (IMG: B)

7. Carefully withdraw the swab and place into the collection tube.

8. Break the swab at the score line by bending against the collection tube. (IMG: C)

9. Place lid onto the collection tube and ensure it is closed evenly and tightly.

10. Place specimen into the biohazard bag and ensure the seal is closed completely. (IMG: D) The thin “paper” sheet in the biohazard bag is the absorbent pad. Leave this in the biohazard bag.

Note: If the patient has a very dry nose, the throat will be a better collection site/method.