INVESTIGATIONS

Within 45 mins of presentation (after admission): Total leucocyte count, blood urea, serum creatinine, blood sugars, SGOT/SGPT, s.bilirubin, Platelet count

S.ELECTROLYTES,

PT-INR, APTT

CUE, ECG

Blood culture & sensitivity

( before giving antimicrobials)

ABG analysis

Chest x ray

Nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swab

Tracheal/ ET aspirate
Collection of OP and NP swabs
• Optimal timing:
  - Within 3 days of symptom onset and no later than 7 days.
  - Preferably prior to initiation of antimicrobial therapy.

Collection of Oropharyngeal swab Materials:
• Sterile Dacron/Nylon flocked swab
• Viral Transport Medium (3 ml sterile VTM)
Procedure:
• Hold the tongue out of the way with a tongue depressor.
• Use a sweeping motion to swab posterior pharyngeal wall and tonsillar pillars
• Have the subject say “aahh” to elevate the uvula.
• Avoid swabbing soft palate and do not touch the tongue with swab tip.
• Put the swab in VTM
**Collection of Nasopharyngeal swabs**

- **Materials** -- Sterile Dacron/Nylon flocked swab
- **Viral Transport Medium (3 ml sterile VTM)**

**Procedure:** Tilt patient’s head back 70 degrees

- Insert swab into nostril (Swab should reach depth to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear)
- Leave swab in place in place for several seconds to absorb secretions
- Slowly remove swab while rotating it
- Place tip of swab into VTM and snap/cut off the applicator stick
**Packaging System**

- The original samples should be packed, labeled and marked, and documented as Category B.
- Standard triple packing for Category B to be followed.
- Samples to be sent on dry ice (if possible). However, using cold packs is acceptable.
- Sender should provide prior intimation about shipment of samples to the nearest certified laboratory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Triple packaging system</th>
<th>Secondary Container</th>
<th>Outer Container / Packaging Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Container</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Watertight and leak proof</td>
<td>• Watertight</td>
<td>• Made of strong material that can be cleansed and disinfected</td>
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<td>• Cap correctly and securely closed.</td>
<td>• Several clinical specimens may be placed into one secondary container</td>
<td>• Should have the Biohazard warning label</td>
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<td>• Keep in upright position during transport</td>
<td>• Containers have to be cleansed and disinfected if they are to be re-used</td>
<td>• A content list in a sealed plastic bag inside the transport box may also be included</td>
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E.g.: Disposable, zip-lock plastic bags; Large centrifuge tubes (50 ml) with screw caps

1. Primary receptacle (leakproof, 95kPa)
2. Secondary receptacle (leakproof)
3. Outer container (w/list of itemized contents)