SELF- OR PARENT-COLLECTED NASAL MID-TURBINATE FLOCKED SWABS VERSUS NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS FOR INFLUENZA DIAGNOSIS IN A COMMUNITY-BASED STUDY

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OBJECTIVES

• To compare self-collected nasal swab (NS) with nurse-collected nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) in a community-based study of influenza transmission

METHODS

• Cohort study of Hutterite communities in rural Alberta
• For subjects with influenza-like illness, nurse collects flocked NPS
• Subject (or parent) collects Copan nasal mid-turbinate flocked swab
• During confirmed influenza outbreak, NS collected daily (max. 21 d)

CONCLUSIONS

• Serial nasal mid-turbinate swabs have equal sensitivity to NPS
• Feasibly self- or parental-collected for up to 21 days.
• This strategy may be of particular value for studies of vaccine efficacy, or of influenza transmission.
• In future, may facilitate home- or point-of-care testing