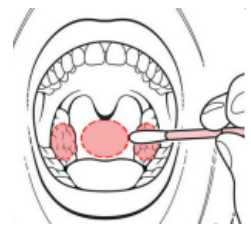
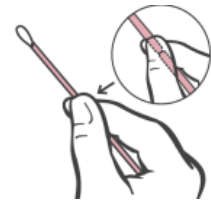


Swab Collection Guide

Oral Swab Specimens

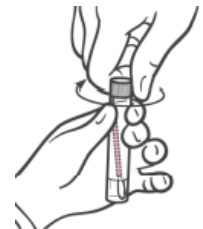
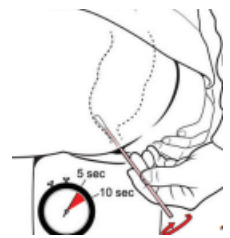
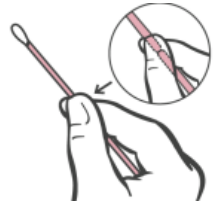
1. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
2. Peel the swab packaging to open. Ensure the tube is appropriately labelled.
Remove the swab. Do not touch the tip of the swab or lay the swab down on any surface.
3. Please ensure to clearly state the **date and time** of sample collection on the provided card.
4. Carefully insert the swab into your mouth, ensuring contact with the tonsils on both sides of your mouth. If tonsils have been removed, ensure contact with the area where your tonsils should have been. Gently ensure contact with the back of the throat in as far as is comfortable.
5. Do not touch the swab off your cheeks or tongue.
6. Remove the swab from your mouth and unscrew the cap from the tube, keeping the tube in an upright position. Do not remove any contents of the tube.
7. Place the swab into the tube so that the score (break) line is at the top of the tube. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube and tightly secure the cap back on the tube. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
9. Transport the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible as per instructions provided.



Swab Collection Guide

Rectal Swab Specimens

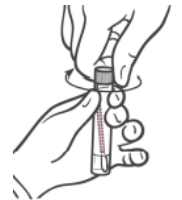
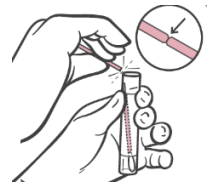
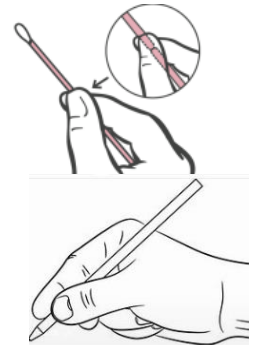
1. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
2. Peel the swab packaging to open. Ensure the tube is appropriately labelled. Remove the swab. Do not touch the tip of the swab or lay the swab down on any surface.
3. Please ensure to clearly state the **date and time** of sample collection on the provided card.
4. Carefully insert the swab into your rectum, about 1-2 inches past the anal margin (outside of the anus). Gently rotate the swab for 5-10 seconds.
5. Withdraw the swab without touching your skin.
6. Unscrew the cap from the tube, do not remove any contents of the tube.
7. Place the swab into the tube so that the score (break) line is at the top of the tube. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube and tightly secure the cap back on the tube. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
9. Transport the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible as per instructions provided.



Swab Collection Guide

Vaginal Swab Specimens

1. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
2. Peel the swab packaging to open. Ensure the tube is appropriately labelled. Remove the swab. Do not touch the tip of the swab or lay the swab down on any surface.
3. Please ensure to clearly state the **date and time** of sample collection on the provided card.
4. Carefully gently insert the swab into your vagina, about 2 inches inside the opening of the vagina. Gently rotate the swab for 10-30 seconds. Ensure contact with the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.
5. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
6. Unscrew the cap from the tube, do not remove any contents of the tube.
7. Place the swab into the tube so that the score (break) line is at the top of the tube. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube and tightly secure the cap back on the tube. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. Wash hands thoroughly in warm soapy water.
9. Transport the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible as per instructions provided.



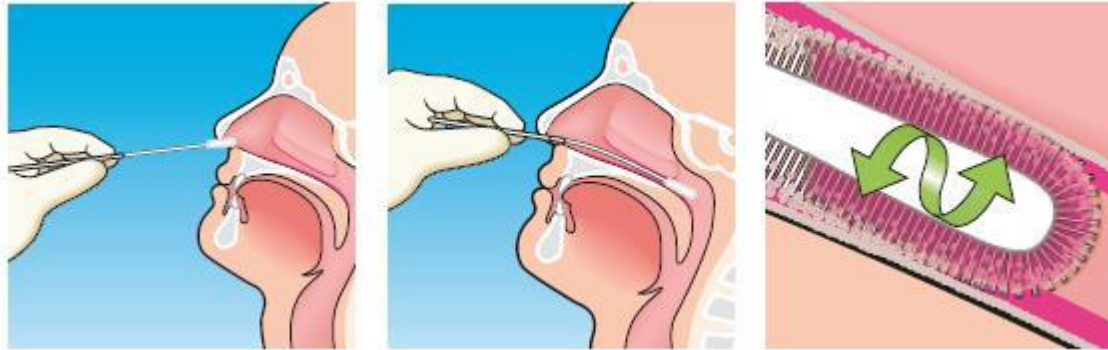
Swab Collection Guide

High Vaginal Swabs

1. Genital tract swabs such as cervical and high vaginal swabs should be taken with the aid of a speculum by a suitably qualified health care professional. This is important to avoid vulval contamination of the swab and thus inaccurate results.
2. After the introduction of the speculum, the HVS swab should be rolled firmly over the surface of the vaginal vault before being placed into the Copan Amies transport medium for culture.
3. In the case of Cervical swabs, following introduction of the speculum to the vagina, the cervical swab should be rotated inside the endocervix before being placed in Amies transport medium for culture.
4. Similarly, for Urethral swabs it is important that during sampling contamination with micro-organisms from the vulva or the foreskin is avoided. Thin swabs should be used for collection of such specimens. The patient should not have passed urine for at least one hour.
5. For males, if a discharge is not apparent, attempts should be made to remove the exudate from the penis. The swab is gently passed through the urethral meatus and rotated before being placed in the Amies transport medium for culture.
6. For the specific diagnosis of BV, it is recommended that an air-dried smear of vaginal discharge is sent in addition to the swab.
7. The detection of viruses or C trachomatis requires a separate sample type.

Swab Collection Guide

Nasopharyngeal Swabs (NPS) for Respiratory Viruses



1. Gently insert the swab along the nasal septum just above the floor of the passage to the nasopharynx until resistance is met.
2. Rotate the swab gently against the nasopharyngeal mucosa for 10-15 seconds then gently remove swab.
3. After the swab is removed from the patient place it into the tube of UTM transport medium all the way to the bottom of the tube.
4. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the breakpoint indication line. **Hold the tube opening away from your face.** Write patient details on the collection tube label.



Swab Collection Guide

Deep Nasal Swab for Respiratory Viruses

The preferred swab type for SARS-CoV-2 surveillance is a deep nasal swab. This is more comfortable for a patient undergoing repeat testing rather than a combined nasopharyngeal and throat swab:

1. Using the sterile nasal swab, take a bilateral nasal swab from both nostrils as follows.
2. Tilt the individual's head back 70 degrees as shown below. While gently rotating the swab, insert the swab approximately 2 cm into the nostril until resistance is met at the turbinates. Rotate the swab 5 times against the nasal wall.
3. Using the same swab repeat the collection procedure with the second nostril. Slowly remove the swab from the nostril each time.
4. After the swab is removed from the patient place it into the tube of UTM transport medium all the way to the bottom of the tube.
5. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the breakpoint indication line. **Hold the tube opening away from your face.** Write patient details on the collection tube label.

