

SWABS / CHLAMYDIA COLLECTION

BLUE TOP SWAB:



Suitable for most routine bacterial culture: e.g. female genital, wound, throat, nose, skin, etc. (NOT Chlamydia)

ORANGE TOP SWAB:



Suitable for ear, eye and urethral swabbing (Has a fine tip with rigid wire)
(Unsuitable for *Bordetella* culture collection as the wire is too rigid to reach nasopharyngeal space.)

BLUE TOP FINE FLEXIBLE WIRE (Packet contains two tubes):



Flexible wire for *Bordetella pertussis* / *parapertussis* CULTURE from nasopharynx. Also may be used to collect urethral discharge for *N.gonorrhoeae*, where there may be a delay in transport to the lab (>24hrs).

NB. For *Bordetella pertussis* PCR use the same flexible swab and place back into its empty tube. PCR testing is only performed on DRY swabs. If culture and PCR are required – two swabs must be collected – one in charcoal and one dry.

BLACK TOP CHARCOAL SWAB:



Suitable for culture of *N.gonorrhoeae* from cervix where there may be a delay in transport to the laboratory (>24hrs).

For delayed Urethral swabs, use the Orange Top swab and place into charcoal transport media.

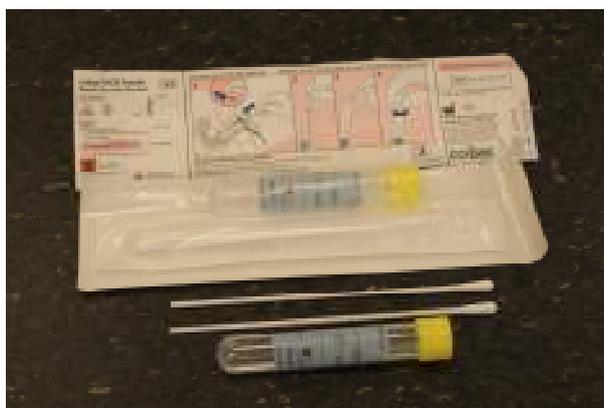
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GREEN VIRAL SWAB:



Contains antibiotic and are not suitable for bacterial culture. Take swab and place into fluid medium, snapping the shaft on the edge of the tube. Screw cap on firmly. Do not use if out of date as they will not be processed.

CHLAMYDIA:



Cervix

Use one swab to remove excess mucus from os and surrounding mucosa and discard. Collect sample and break at 'score' line on shaft into the fluid collection tube.

Male Urethral / Eye

Use Orange Top (fine tip) swab and cut shaft near the tip into fluid collection tube.



Urine

First catch after not urinating for 1-2hrs prior. Transfer urine to the fluid collection tube to a level between the two black lines using the pipette provided.

- Please ensure that all specimens are clearly labelled.
- Swabs should be kept at room temperature until collected. (Bacteria will remain viable for 24 – 48hrs at room temperature in transport medium)
- Always check expiry dates and read instructions on swab packets.

RESPIRATORY VIRUS SWABS (Including Influenza Testing) Winter 2010

Collect **two** swabs.

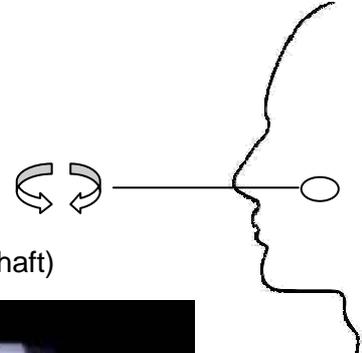
If only one swab is sent, Influenza PCR will not be performed.

For adults, at least one should be a nasopharyngeal swab.

For paediatrics, two low nose swabs (or one nasopharyngeal aspirate where such sampling is possible).

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS

Use a flexible pernasal swab (**without gel**)



EITHER "microRheologics" Flocked swab (Orange top with plastic shaft)



OR flexible pernasal "COPAN" swab – **without gel** (blue top same as for Bordetella PCR testing)

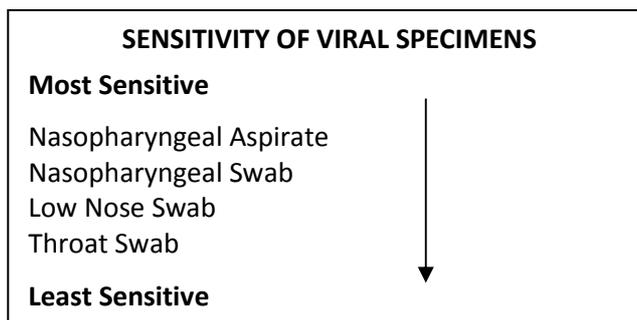
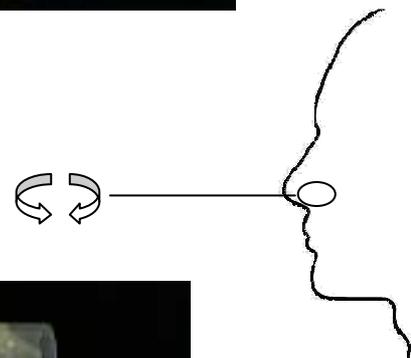
Place swab back into empty tube and discard gel tube.



LOW NOSE SWABS

Use Green top virus tube, rigid swab.

Place swab into a tube of virus transport medium.



See Waikato DHB website for more information regarding testing criteria for influenza and updates.