

Identification of swabs for testing

When collecting swabs, to assist with interpretation and reporting it is important to give a clinical history as well as indicating the nature and site of the sample.

Bacterial transport swab for m/c/s

- Store and transport at room temperature
- Note: PCR or rapid antigen testing cannot be performed on swabs in bacterial transport medium



Nasopharyngeal flocked swab (dry flocked swab with flexible shaft)

- Store and transport at room temperature
- For respiratory virus testing, B. pertussis and M. pneumoniae



Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Trichomonas vaginalis PCR swab (STI panel)

- Store and transport at room temperature
- Use swab for specimen collection then break off tip in Aptima diluent tube
- Endocervical—a cotton swab may be used to remove cervical mucous and discarded



Female – cervical or vaginal collection kit.

Male urethral or unisex collection kit.

Regular flocked swab—viral & PCR (dry flocked swab with a firmer shaft)

- Store and transport at room temperature*
- Used for viral molecular PCR and viral culture testing



*If viral culture is required, store and transport at 4°C