



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 flocced swab (dry flocced 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 flocced swab—viral and PCR (dry flocced 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