

# GETTING STARTED

Accurate test results start with a properly collected specimen. Please review the specimen collection instructions thoroughly before you begin.

## Tips to ensure a proper collection:

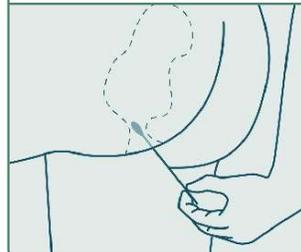
- Do not touch or drop the soft end of the swab.
- Hold the shaft of the swab so that the score line is above your fingers and the soft end of the swab is out.
- Ensure the specimen tubes are properly labeled with the kit ID sticker for the proper swab location (Rectal and Throat).

### STEP 1:

<b>PREP</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lay out all the contents of your kit.</li><li>2. Label the collection tube with the kit ID sticker filled out with the patient's name and date of collection (<i>unlabeled specimen tubes will not be processed</i>).</li></ol>
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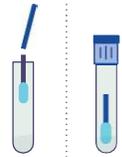
### STEP 2:

<b>COLLECT</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Open the swab packet and hold the shaft of the swab so that the score is just beyond the tips of your fingers.</li><li>2. Swab the intended area (specific instructions for each area below).</li><li>3. Withdraw the swab carefully. Do not let the swab touch any surfaces before placing in into the collection tube.</li></ol>
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RECTAL SWAB
Insert the swab (cotton end) about 1-2 inches (3-5 cm) into the rectal canal. Gently rotate the swab while rubbing the walls of the rectum for 30 seconds.


THROAT SWAB
Insert the swab (cotton end) into the mouth swabbing the pharynx (back of the throat), Tonsils (sides of the throat), and Uvula (hanging structure in the back of the throat) each <b>3 times</b> .


### STEP 3:

<b>TRANSFER</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove the cap from the transfer tube. Be careful not to spill any of the specimen preservatives already present in the tube.</li><li>2. Place the swab (cotton end) into the tube until the score line on the swab shaft aligns with the top of the transfer tube.</li><li>3. Press the swab against the tube to break the swab shaft at the score line.</li><li>4. Replace the tube cap and secure it tightly.</li></ol>
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### STEP 4:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Place the labeled transport tube containing the swab into the biohazard bag with the absorbent pad and seal the bag.</li><li>2. Enclose the biohazard bag within the crush-proof box and place it into the return shipping envelope.</li><li>3. Ship the specimen to the lab.</li></ol>
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