

How to take a Throat Swab

IMPORTANT

Remove the swab and return tube from the package carefully

- Do not touch the soft tip of the swab
- Do not lay the swab down.
- Do not pre wet the swab with the collection media or any other liquid or saliva, before taking the sample
- Do not touch or pierce the foil lid.

Ask for a new test kit:

- If the soft tip of the swab is touched.
- If the swab is laid down, or dropped.
- If the fluid is spilt.
- If the swab breaks incorrectly.



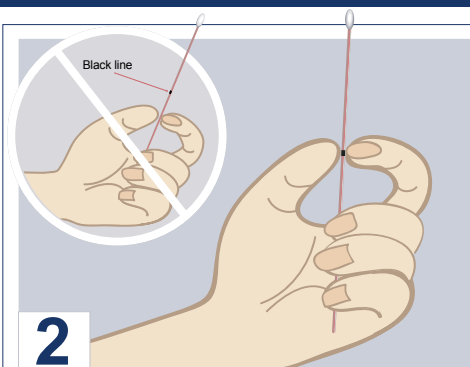
1

What the nurse will give you:

- A swab
- A clinician labelled swab tube
- A ziplock plastic bag

Washing hands:

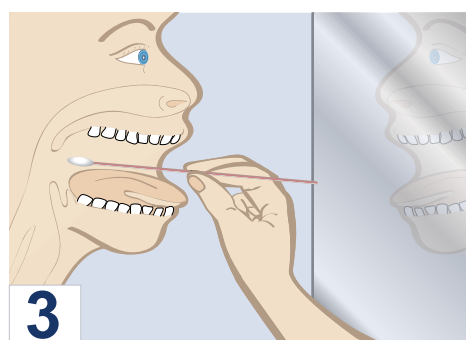
- Wash your hands with soap and water before taking a sample and dry thoroughly



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The swab:

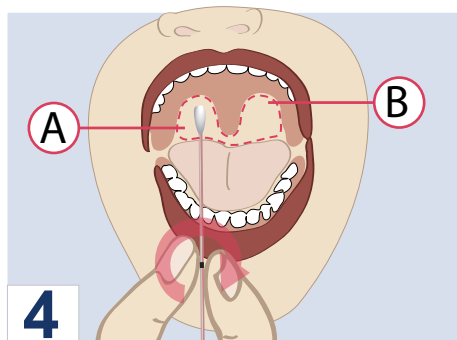
- Take the swabs out of the package
- Placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line
- Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line (black line).



3

The swab:

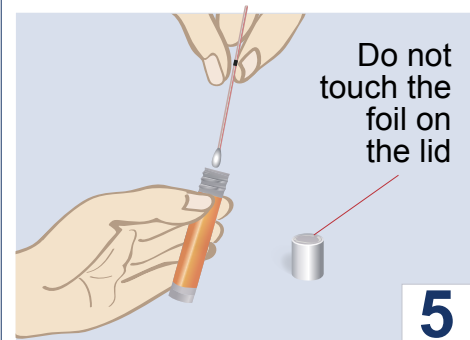
- Hold in your hand and look into a mirror as shown



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Taking the sample:

- Open your mouth wide and wipe the swab around the tonsils area (A) and the back of the throat (B) on both sides.
- Try not to touch the teeth, tongue or cheeks with the swab



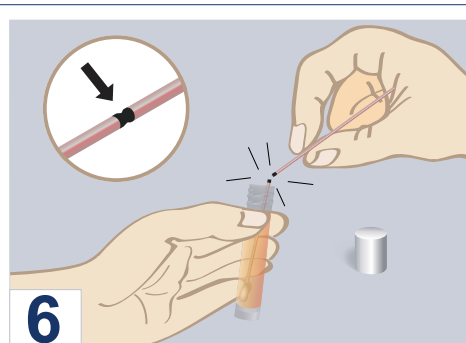
5

Return to swab tube:

- Open the lid of the swab tube ensuring none of the liquid spills out.
- Place the swab back into the orange plastic tube.

Ask the nurse for a new test kit:

- If the fluid in the tube spills

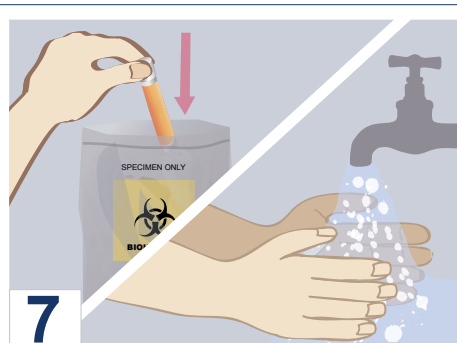


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Break the swab:

- Carefully break the swab stick at the black mark (shown in circle diagram) against the side of the tube.
- Close the lid of the swab tube tightly

If the swab breaks incorrectly or you pierce the foil lid, please return to the nurse and get another kit.



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Bagging up:

- Put the labelled tube in the small zip lock plastic bag, one sample per plastic bag.
- If you have other samples to take, place the sealed ziplock throat sample into the larger plastic bag with the other samples

Wash Hands:

- Wash you hands again with soap and water.



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Finish:

- Return the plastic bags and their contents as instructed.