
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SWAB CULTURE TEST

Please read these instructions carefully before beginning the collection process.

Objective

To culture and identify potential organisms, a swab sample must be collected from a single source. The sample can be taken from stool, urine, saliva, mucus, nasal passages, skin, or other bodily fluids (excluding blood).

Collection Instructions

1. Prepare the Swab

- Carefully remove the test tube from its wrapper. **Do not touch the cotton swab.**

2. Collect the Sample

- **For stool culture:** Dip and swirl the cotton swab in the stool while holding the rod by the stopper end. **Do not insert the swab into the anal opening.**
- **For urine collection:** Obtain a clean-catch, mid-stream urine sample and dip the swab into the sample.
- **For other areas:** Swab the area directly (e.g., saliva, mucus, nasal passages, or skin).

3. Secure the Swab in the Test Tube

- Remove the lid of the test tube.
- Place the cotton swab end first into the test tube until it penetrates the culture medium at the bottom of the tube.
- Close the lid tightly to secure the sample.

4. Label the Test Tube

- Clearly write your name, the site or source of the sample, and the date of collection on the label.
- **Important:** Use a separate test tube for each site or sample source.

5. Storage and Shipping

- If immediate shipping is not possible, refrigerate the specimen until it can be shipped.
 - Use a courier of your choice (USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc.) to send the samples to:
 - Ship the specimen to PCI with a 2-3 day delivery service
 - Send to PCI 11445 E. Via Linda #2-419, Scottsdale, AZ 85259- This address is a UPS store..
 - Shipment of samples is the responsibility of the patient. **PCI does not provide return labels.**
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Results

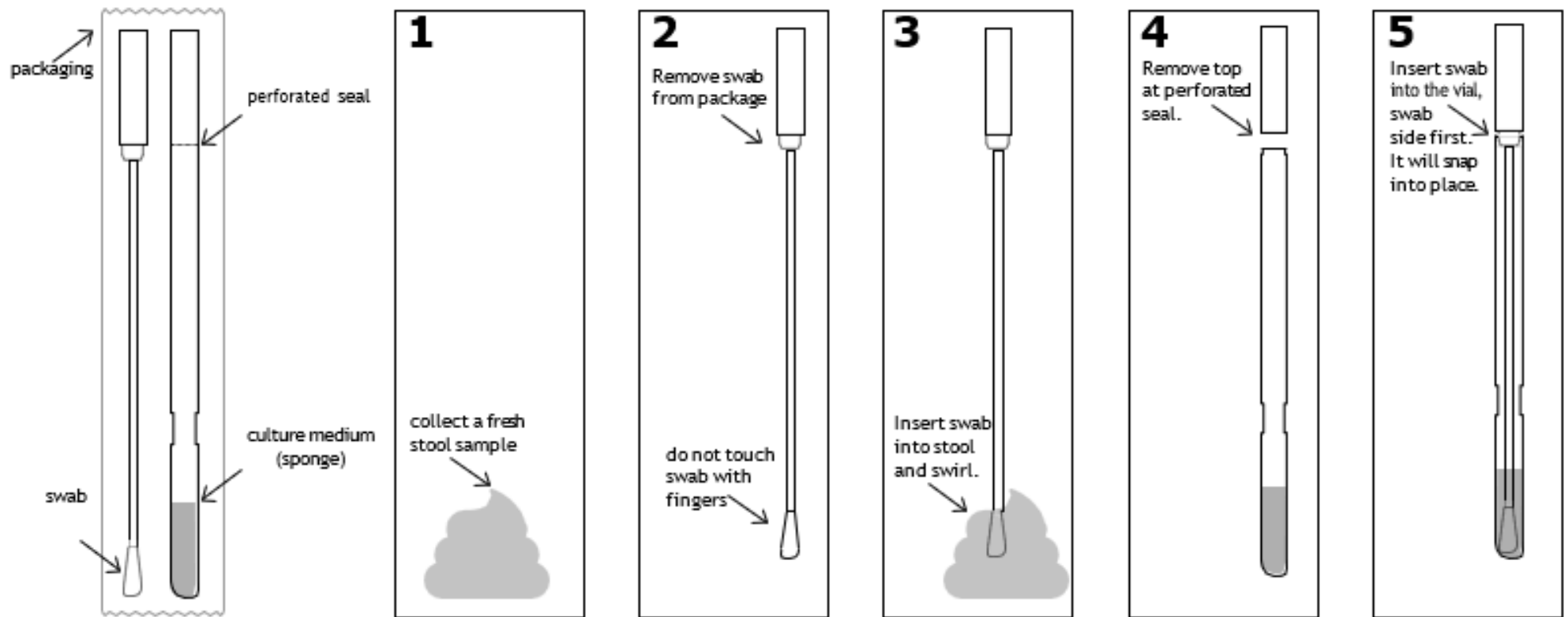
- Results of swab tests will be available within **2–3 weeks** of receipt of the sample (excluding weekends and holidays).
 - Results will be sent to your physician or practitioner if you have one.
 - If registered as a patient on our website, you will receive your results through the **patient portal**.
 - If you still need to register, create a patient account on our website to access your results.
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Key Reminders

- Only swab a single site or sample source per test tube.
- Do not touch the cotton swab to maintain sample integrity.
- Ship the specimen promptly and refrigerate if shipping is delayed.

For additional questions, visit the **Contact Us** section of www.parasitetesting.com.

Visual Guide to the Swab Culture Test (Part 2)



Ship Your Sample Quickly

Once you take the swab sample, please return it with the other two vials as soon as possible.

The best time to ship back the samples is on a weekday, ideally on a Monday or Tuesday.

The worst way to ship back the samples would be to drop them in a post office box late on a Saturday. The package could sit in the box for two days before pick-up, potentially hurting the sample's viability.

If you can't ship the swab sample back, that On the same day, refrigerate the sample until you can ship it. Refrigerate it for a maximum of 2 days. After 2 days, the sample is no longer viable.