

# Otolaryngology Infection



## Collection Instructions

**SAMPLE TYPE:** Left or Right Ear Swab, Nasopharyngeal, Throat

### MATERIALS PROVIDED

- 1 sterile swab
- 1 specimen bag
- Specimen collection cup (upon request)
- 1 molecular transport tube
- 1 UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer

To ensure the safety and validity of a sample it is important to follow these instructions.

**Ear swab (external):** use for otitis externa, perforated otitis media, other external ear/ear canal lesions.

1. Carefully insert the swab into the external ear canal, ensuring swab contacts area of interest.
2. Thoroughly swab the affected area by rotating the swab 5-10 times.
3. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
4. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

**Tympanocentesis fluid:** for otitis media

1. Collect fluid per standard sterile tympanocentesis aspiration method.
2. Eject 0.2-0.5 mL of tympanocentesis fluid directly into molecular transport tube.
3. Securely tighten the tube cap.
4. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

**Sino-nasal, oro-pharyngeal, endotracheal/tracheotomy tube swab:**

1. Carefully insert the swab into the pertinent anatomic site, ensuring swab contacts area of interest.
2. Thoroughly swab the affected area by rotating the swab 5-10 times.
3. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
4. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

**Sinus contents, sputum, other pertinent collected fluids/washings:**

For **sinus contents**, have patient eject possibly infected sinus material into a collection cup. For **sputum**, have patient perform a “deep cough” and expectorate possibly infected material into a collection cup.

1. Swirl the swab in the sample 5-10 times.
2. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
3. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
4. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

**For sinus aspiration/washing, or other collected fluids/washings:**

1. Eject 0.5 mL of aspirated material directly into the molecular transport tube.
2. Securely tighten the tube cap.
3. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.