

## Supplies

- ▶ 1 sterile thick swab
- ▶ 1 molecular transport tube
- ▶ 1 specimen bag

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

## Ear

### 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, saturating the swab with any drainage.
3. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
4. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap with the swab remaining in the tube.

### Tympanocentesis Fluid

For otitis media

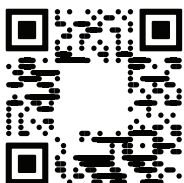
1. Collect fluid per standard sterile tympanocentesis aspiration method.
2. Eject 0.2–0.5 mL of tympanocentesis fluid directly into molecular transport tube.
3. Securely tighten the tube cap.

## Oropharyngeal

1. Guide the swab tip toward the tonsillar area of the posterior oropharynx.
2. Thoroughly and firmly swab the tonsillar area, posterior oropharynx, as well as any area of abnormal redness, inflammation, white patches, or pus.
3. Immediately place the swab in the molecular transport tube.
4. Break the swab at the indentation mark and secure cap on the tube with the swab remaining in the tube.

## Nasopharyngeal / Nares

1. Insert the swab into the nose parallel to the palate until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the patient's ear to nostril, indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
2. Thoroughly swab the nasal passage by rotating the swab 5-10 times.
3. Immediately place the swab in the collection tube, break the swab at the indentation mark, and secure cap on the tube with the swab remaining in the tube.



  
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