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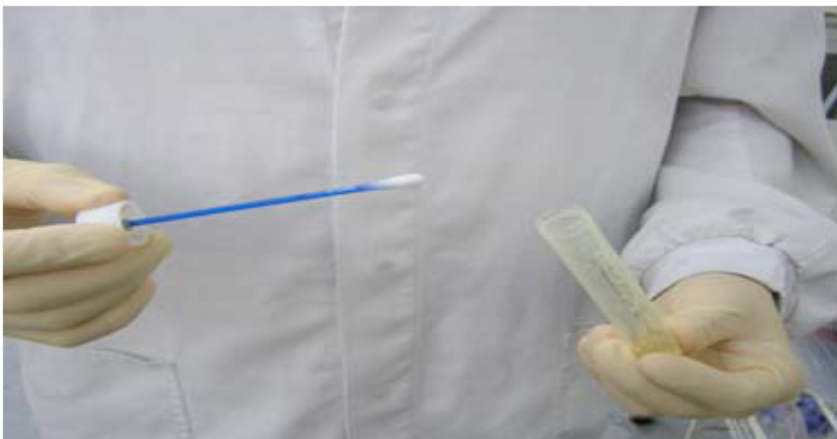
PROCEDURE: SWAB SAMPLING

Step 1: Label the Swab tube.

Remove surplus medium from the swab tip by pressing against the side of the tube.

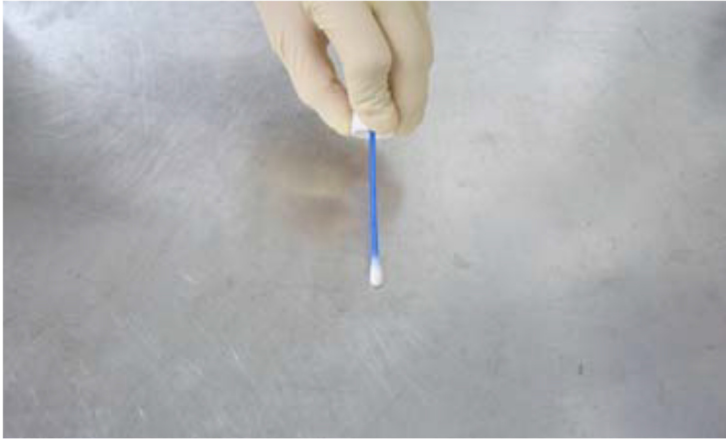


Step 2: Remove the Swab from the tube.

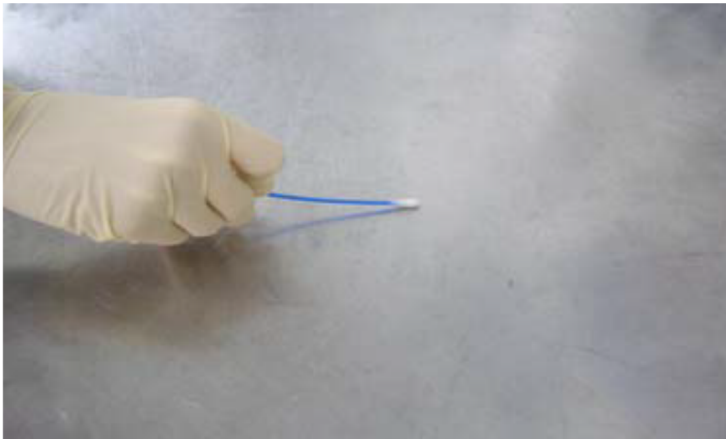


Author: L. Meyer	Reviewer: L. Meyer	Authorised by: M. Andrin	Authorisation Date: June 2022	Page 1 of 3
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Step 3: Swab the sampling surface (suggested 10 x 10 cm²) with the Swab in a horizontal (left to right) direction. Ensure a reasonable amount of force is applied to the sponge when swabbing any surface, and rotate the swab to cover the entire surface of the tip.



Step 4: Now swab the sample area again, this time in a vertical (up and down) direction



Step 5: Replace the swab into the tube and tighten the cap.



Immediately place the swab(s) in a cooler box filled with sufficient ice packs.

TAKE NOTE: DO NOT USE ICE CUBES AS COOLING AGENT.

Ensure that the sample is kept from direct sunlight post sampling and during transportation thereof to the laboratory

Ideally the samples should be submitted to the laboratory immediately post sampling. Should immediate submission not be possible, the samples should be refrigerated.

Swab samples should reach the laboratory within 24 hours post sampling.

Swabs should be transported in an upright position.

Storage of swabs before use.

Swabs should always be stored in a refrigerator and in an upright position prior to being used.

The lab encourages clients to send a control/blank swab with their samples to act as a sterility control for the swabs received.

A control swab should NEVER be opened. Remove the seal sticker, but do not open the swab at all, some bacteria are airborne and as soon as the seal of the swab is broken it is no longer a “blank” swab.

Author: L. Meyer	Reviewer: L. Meyer	Authorised by: M. Andrin	Authorisation Date: June 2022	Page 3 of 3
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