

## Throat Swab Collection

### Equipment

- Tongue depressor
- 1 transport swab (blue top)

### Specimen Collection

- Check the patient has not recently used an antiseptic mouthwash or lozenge.
- Mouth rinsing with water may be necessary before swabbing.
- Label the transport swab with the patient's full name, date of birth, UR number (if applicable), date, time and site of collection.
- Using a tongue depressor, view the area to be swabbed (tonsillar surface, pillars of the fauces and posterior pharyngeal wall). Areas of exudation, membrane formation or inflammation are preferred. All other areas should be avoided, including the tongue and teeth when withdrawing the swab.
- Firmly swab using the transport swab. Place the swab in transport medium. No slide/smear is necessary.
- State "throat swab" on the request slip and on the specimen. Store the swab in transport medium and deliver promptly to the laboratory (store at room temperature)

### Pathology Collection

Angliss Hospital	-	9764 6135
Box Hill Hospital	-	9895 4905
Healesville Collection Centre	-	5969 9949
Maroondah Hospital	-	9871 3572
Tecoma Collection Rooms	-	9754 1441
Yarra Ranges Health	-	8706 9665 (Tues & Thurs morning only)

