 Microbiology Swab Specimen Collection

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| **Investigation** | **Collection Container/kit** | **Tests – Refer also to the Pathology Handbook Test & Collection Guide**  |
| **STIPCR - Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea/Trichomonas vaginalis (CT/NG/TV)** |  | **Females:*** Cervical/Endocervical swab for STIPCR
* First-stream urine (15-20mLs) as alternative/additional test (after not voiding for at least 2 hours).

Males:* First-stream urine (15-20mLs) is the preferred specimen (after not voiding for at least 2 hours)

Throat swab Rectal Swab |
| **Herpes PCR****(HSV-1, HSV-2, VZV, CMV, Adenovirus, Enterovirus)****& All other non-respiratory PCR requests (except CT/NG/TV)** |  | * White-top dry swab
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| **General wound MCS****Group B Screen (GBS)****CRE/CPO Screen****MRSA Screen****VRE Screen****C.auris Screen****Genital MCS** |  | **Open wounds:** Clean with a swab moistened with normal sterile saline until red granulation tissue is visible.**Closed wounds:** Clean away excess debris and purulent material from the opening. **GBS**: Blue-top swab for combined low vaginal and rectal swab. See <http://ehpolicies.eh.local:90/index.aspx?itemDetails=2546>**CRE:** Rectal swab AND separate inguinal swab (Faecal specimen is preferable, rectal swab MUST have visible faeces).**MRSA:** Nose & groin swabs, +/- axilla +/- throat**VRE:** Rectal swab with visible faeces**C.auris**: bilateral axilla and groin swabs**Genital MCS:** * Females - High vaginal swab/Cervical swab. (For Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea/Trichomonas vaginalis PCR see STIPCR section).
* Males – Urethral swab (use orange top charcoal swab – see below)
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|  | Gonorrhoea culture or Urethral swab MCS |
| **COVID-19/Influenza A/Influenza B/ RSV PCR****Extended Respiratory PCR including Bordetella pertussis PCR.** |  | * **Collect a nose & throat swab for COVID19/Influenza A/Influenza B/RSV PCR.**
* **For Bordetella pertussis PCR - Nasopharyngeal swab is preferred specimen.**

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**General Instructions:**

* Label all specimens with
	+ Patient’s surname and given name
	+ UR no (if available)
	+ Date of birth
	+ Site of collection and
	+ Date/time of collection
* Store swabs for M&C at room temperature prior to transport to the laboratory.
* Chlamydia/ Gonorrhoea/Trichomonas PCR (white-top) swabs and first pass urine specimens **MUST** be received in an EHP laboratory **within 2 hours of collection**.