ENCOMPASS DIAGNOSTICS

MATERIALS PROVIDED

- ✓ 1 sterile swab
- ✓ 1 specimen bag
- ✓ 1 molecular transport tube
- ✓ 1 UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer



NAIL/PARONYCHIAL & HAIR SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

To request additional supplies, and/or courier services, please contact us at:

https://encompassdiagnostics.com/contact-us/

Email: **support@encompassdiagnostics.com**

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Collect affected nail(s) and paronychial soft tissue/debris samples using standard aseptic/sterile technique currently in use at your practice. For nail clippers utilized directly from an autoclave pouch, no sterile saline rinse is required prior to nail clipping. For nail clippers which have been autoclaved, and then placed in a cold, sterile holding container, rinse clippers with sterile saline prior to clipping nails.

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

Nail and Paronychial Specimen Collection

1. Don gloves. Clip the affected nail(s). Collect clippings on sterile gauze/paper (or equivalent).
2. Transfer nail(s) to provided molecular transport tube.
3. **(Preferred/Optional)** Using an appropriately sized sterile surgical blade, scrape affected subungual/periungual debris/tissue from the site directly into the molecular transport tube (or collect on sterile gauze/paper, and then transfer to transport tube). Collection of BOTH nail material and periungual material maximizes diagnostic yield and ensures that both pathogenic fungi and pathogenic bacteria are detected.
4. Securely tighten the tube top and ensure all material is submerged in transport fluid.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

Hair Specimen Collection

1. Don gloves. Pluck 10-15 hairs and place directly into the provided molecular transport tube.
2. (Preferred/Optional) Swab the affected hair follicles and place the swab into the molecular transport tube with the collected hair. Collection of hair and a swab of the affected site maximizes diagnostic yield.
3. Securely tighten the tube top and ensure that all material is submerged in transport fluid.
4. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 - 15 minutes.