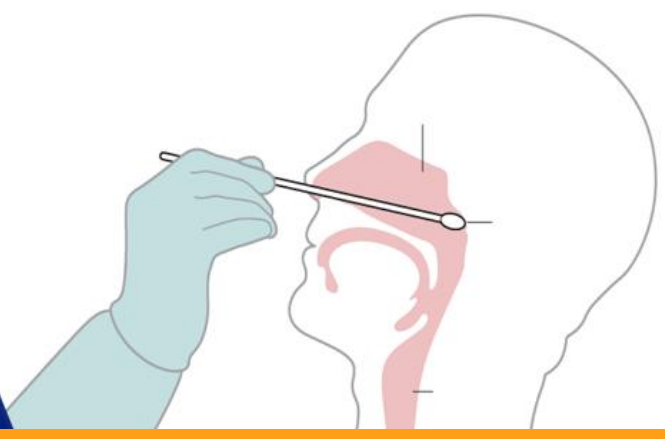
ENCOMPASS DIAGNOSTICS

MATERIALS PROVIDED

- ✓ 1 sterile swab
- ✓ 1 specimen bag
- ✓ 1 molecular transport tube
- ✓ 1 UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer
- ✓ Specimen collection cup (upon request)



OTOLARYNGOLOGY PATHOGENS 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

To ensure the safety and validity of a sample it is important to follow these instructions.
Don gloves and follow one of the sample collection methods below.

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.
3. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
4. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

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.
4. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

Sino-Nasal, Oro-Pharyngeal, Endotracheal/Tracheotomy Tube Swab:

1. Carefully Insert the swab into the pertinent anatomic site, ensuring swab contacts area of interest.
2. Thoroughly swab the affected area by rotating the swab 5 – 10 times.
3. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
4. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

Sinus Contents, Sputum, Other Pertinent Collected Fluids/Washings:

For **sinus contents**, have patient eject possibly infected sinus material into a collection cup. For **sputum**, have patient perform a “deep cough” and expectorate possibly infected material into a collection cup.

1. Swirl the swab in the sample 5 – 10 times.
2. Place the swab into the molecular transport tube.
3. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten the tube cap.
4. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

For **sinus aspiration/washing, or other collected fluids/washings**

1. Eject 0.5 mL of aspirated material directly into the molecular transport tube.
2. Securely tighten the tube cap.
3. 3. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.