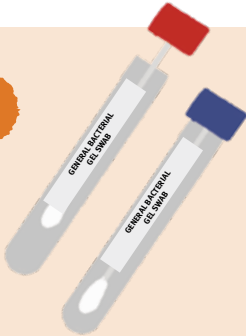




How to swab for Strep A

1



Pick your bacterial swab + Locate where to swab

It's important to swab for respiratory panel as well as Strep A for those presenting with a sore throat.

General Bacterial Gel Swab Red/ Blue cap swab with a clear gel based medium.

Determine appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and clean hands prior to wearing PPE.

2



Collect sample

THROAT

- Provide a clear explanation to child/parent/adult
- Sit child on parent/carer's lap or sit the person upright with their head tilted back and resting on the back of the examination chair.
- Ensure **back of throat or tonsils** are swabbed, NOT the tongue or cheeks
- Sit patient comfortably upright with head supported
- Rotate swab slowly for **5–10 seconds** and then withdraw swab

SKIN

- **Clean skin** with normal saline to remove debris/ slough prior to swab
- **Press and rotate swab** several times to extract fluid
- Avoid touching the swab to the outside edges of the wounds
- DO NOT swab from a wound dressing or pooled exudate

3



After swab collection

- Place swab into gel medium
- Ensure specimen is labelled immediately after collection
- Place labelled swab into biohazard specimen transport bag with the completed and signed pathology request form
- Store and transport at room temperature
- Remove PPE and clean hands