

Hand Swabbing Guide

Step 1

Eurofins supplies stick swabs for hand swabbing, which comes in two different formats depending on availability (see fig. 1 & 2). One type is manufactured pre-immersed in a neutralising buffer, while the other type is manufactured outside the tube containing the buffer.



Fig. 1: Example of stick swab manufactured pre-immersed in neutralising buffer.



Fig. 2: Example of stick swab manufactured dry, with a tube containing the neutralising buffer.

Step 3

For stick swabs that are manufactured dry: Open the outer packaging carefully to avoid contamination of the swab, then open the tube and place the swab inside, in order to immerse the cotton in the buffer prior to sampling. Remove the swab from the tube and replace the cap. The swab is now ready for sampling.



Fig. 4: Dry swabs - how to open them aseptically and prepare them for sampling.

Step 5

After sampling, place the swab in the tube containing the neutralising buffer and close it tight.



Fig. 6: Return swab to the tube after sampling and close tube.

Step 2

For swabs that are pre-immersed in neutralising buffer: Open the tube aseptically and remove the swab, by holding the blue handle and pulling gently, making sure that the cotton bud doesn't touch any surface that is not to be sampled. The swab is ready for sampling.



Fig. 3: Swabs pre-immersed in buffer - how to open them aseptically.

Step 4

Collect the sample: Hold the swab between the thumb and the forefinger and apply a downward pressure on the hand to be swabbed. Rotate the swab while sampling, trying to use the entirety of the cotton bud.

Swab both hands, including palms, between fingers and around nails.

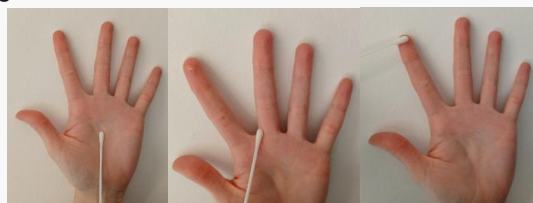


Fig. 5: Hand areas to swab; palm, between fingers, and fingertips/around nails.

Step 6

Label the swab with Europortal barcode (see figure 7). If this is not possible, hand write customer name, date & time of sampling and any other relevant information.



Fig. 7: Label the swab before sending to the lab for testing.