

Laboratory Services

FEMALE SWAB COLLECTION

Your doctor has requested a swab sample for examination. This test is very important to assess your health and will only give useful results if collected properly.

There are two different types of swab. You may be asked to collect one or both sample types. When you present at collection rooms you will be given the appropriate swabs for testing.

Label all swab containers with your full name and date of birth

Wash your hands thoroughly before commencing the collection process.

Purple Swab



Open the packet containing the swab and transport container. Be careful not to allow the collection swab to come into contact with your hands or any surface that could contaminate the swab.

Hold the swab using the purple handle.

Carefully insert the swab into the opening of the vagina about 2 inches and gently rotate swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the sides of the vagina walls so moisture is absorbed by the swab. Withdraw swab without touching skin.

Take the clear cap off the tube with the patient label on it, and insert the swab into the tube. Press down on the purple handle until the lid is fully closed

Orange (swab and liquid)



Open the packet containing the swab and transport container. Be careful not to allow the collection swab to come into contact with your hands or any surface that could contaminate the swab.

Hold the swab by placing thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft above the black score line.



Carefully insert the swab into the opening of the vagina about 2 inches and gently rotate swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the sides of the vagina walls so moisture is absorbed by the swab. Withdraw swab without touching skin.



While holding the swab unscrew the orange tube cap. If contents are spilled request a new swab collection kit. Immediately place swab into transport tube so the black score line is at the top of the tube. Align score line with top edge of tube and carefully snap off the swab shaft.



Discard the top portion of the swab. Tightly screw the cap onto tube.

****Reminder****

Ensure that all containers are labelled with your **full name, date of birth and date of collection.**

Deliver swabs to a Laboratory Collection Centre as soon as possible after collection.

Central Hawke's Bay Health Centre Laboratory
Ph 06 858 7797 Ext 5553
Weekdays 7.30am – 5pm
(Collection hours 7.30am – 4:15pm)

Napier Health Centre Laboratory
Ph 06 834 1815 Ext 4142
Weekdays 8am – 5pm

Wairoa Health Laboratory
Ph 06 838 9710 Ext 4859
Weekdays 7.30am – 4.30pm
(Collection hours 7.30am – 3pm)

Villa 8 Hastings Hospital
Ph 06 878-1308 x 2648
Weekdays 8am – 5pm