

PROTOCOL FOR RAPID STREP SCREEN
Wyoming Public Health Laboratory

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Obtaining swabs on patient/student(s) who have actual signs of streptococcal pharyngitis will eliminate having to perform and ship unnecessary swabs. The following are the most important indicators of strep pharyngitis:

- *Rapid onset of sore throat and fever above 101°F
- *Exudate of tonsils or pharynx
- *Enlarged tonsils; red pharynx

PROCEDURE:

1. Assemble your equipment; wash hands or wipe with a cleansing wipe.
2. It is **important** that you use the polyester tipped applicator. Place the individual in a comfortable position, either sitting or lying down and instruct them to tilt their head backward. Have the patient open their mouth wide; direct maximum lighting toward the back of the throat.
3. Remove swab from swab sheath carefully so swab is not contaminated. Depress the tongue with tongue blade so that the uvula and the back of the throat are visible.
4. Vigorously swab the **tonsillar area and posterior pharynx** with the swab. Obtaining the secretions from the exudate from this region ensures proper collection.
5. Excess blood or mucus on the swab specimen may interfere with the test performance and may yield a false positive result. Avoid touching the tongue, cheeks, teeth, and any bleeding areas of the mouth with the swab when collecting specimens.
6. Replace swab in the swab sheath and print name **legibly** on the swab sheath.

SUBMITTAL OF THROAT SWABS:

1. All throat swabs must be accompanied by a completed WPHL Laboratory Requisition form.
2. Please complete ALL the information requested in the patient information area of the form. **(Date of birth is now required)**
3. Make sure the submitter information area is completed, including your phone number in the event we need to call you.
4. In the test request area of the form, check the Rapid Strep Screen box.
5. If you are mailing the specimen to the lab, please remember that throat swabs are considered "Diagnostic specimens" and should be packaged according to USPS regulations.
6. Please make sure that your swabs are sent immediately after you are done with your patient/student(s). This will insure that test results are reported in a timely manner.
7. The laboratory requisition form can be obtained at our website:
<http://www.health.wyo.gov/PHSD/lab/index.html>
8. Please share this information with other individuals who are also responsible for obtaining and submitting throat swab specimens to the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory.

Submit Samples To:

Wyoming Public Health Laboratory
Microbiology Section ~ 208 South College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002