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| Moline | 1520 7 th Street | 309-762-8555 | <u>M-F</u> 6a-6p | <u>Sat</u> 6a-12p | <u>Sun</u> 6a-12p |
| Davenport | 1828 E. Locust Street | 563-324-0471 | 6a-6p | 6a-12p | 6a-12p |

Throat Swab

Sample Collection and Delivery Instructions

Equipment and Supplies:

- Swab collection system containing dual sterile Dacron swabs and transport medium consisting of Stuarts or Ames transport media.
- Label
- Laboratory marker
- Biohazard (transport) bag
- Tongue Depressor
- Gloves
- Laboratory requisition (order) form

Procedure:

1. Assemble needed supplies and obtain a laboratory requisition (order) form.
2. Wash hands and dry them thoroughly.
3. Explain the procedure to the patient.
4. Put on gloves.
5. Position the patient and adjust the light source to allow you to see the pharyngeal (throat) area.
6. Carefully remove the swab(s) from the sterile collection swab transport.
7. Instruct the patient to open his/her mouth and say “ah.”
8. Using the tongue depressor, hold the tongue down and look into the back of the throat and at the tonsils for areas of inflammation and exudates.
9. Holding the swab(s) together, carefully but firmly swab the tonsils and the area that appears to be infected using a figure-eight or circular pattern.
 - Because proper collection may cause the patient to gag or cough, you may want to wear a face mask or stand to the side of the patient.
 - Do not touch the cheeks, teeth or gums with the swab as you insert or withdraw the swab(s) from the mouth.
10. Place the swab(s) containing the specimen into the collection tube.
 - For Strep screens: do not crush the ampule (where applicable) in the bottom of the transport tube.
 - For throat culture: crush the ampule (where applicable) of transport medium located at the bottom of the transport container by squeezing the ampule between the thumb and forefinger.
11. Label the collection tube with the following information:
 - Patient’s full name
 - Patient’s date of birth
 - Date and time the specimen was collected
 - Test(s) required
 - Specimen source (e.g. throat)
12. Place the collection tube in a Biohazard (transport) bag and seal.
13. Place the completed copy of the laboratory requisition (order) form in the outside pocket of the Biohazard (transport) bag.
14. Remove gloves and wash your hands.
15. Take/send the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible.