

Swab Collection for Syphilis NAAT/PCR Testing

Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT)/Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests can be used to detect *Treponema pallidum* bacteria in mucosa and skin lesions (including genital, oral and rectal sites). In specific cases, blind oral, vaginal or rectal swabs in asymptomatic clients can assist in syphilis staging

If testing for syphilis, always collect a blood sample for syphilis serology, even if a swab is collected

Symptomatic Clients

If a lesion is present, collect samples for the different STIs that may be causing the lesion. Use a separate swab to test for each infection and collect the syphilis swab first

Asymptomatic Clients and Contacts to Syphilis

If directed by a BCCDC STI Physician, obtain blind oropharyngeal, vaginal, and/or rectal swabs depending on sexual exposure

Specimen Collection

Please note the location of sample collection on swab AND requisition

Acceptable swabs for syphilis NAAT/PCR testing include:

- Orange Aptima Multitest kit (image top)
- Blue-capped Universal Transport Media (UTM) (image bottom)



Requisition

Use the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory Zoonotics & Emerging Pathogens Requisition

On the bottom left, select *Treponema pallidum* Nucleic Acid Testing and indicate whether any signs/symptoms were noted

SYPHILIS

- ☐ VDRL (CSF sample only)
Submit 1 mL CSF in sterile leak-proof tube
- ☒ *Treponema pallidum* Nucleic Acid Testing*
Submit exudate, tissue or body fluid
- ☐ Darkfield (DF) Microscopy
Source of sample: _____
- ☐ Direct Fluorescent Assay (DFA) Microscopy
Source of sample: _____
- Signs / Symptoms** ☐ Asymptomatic ☒ Rash
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

Scan for Lab Requisition

