

Collection of Naso-pharyngeal Swabs

SCL Otago/Southland



Please note that if you require testing of patients for measles, mumps, pertussis, or influenza, the swabs need to be collected by the practice. Such patients should not be sitting in our collection rooms together with vulnerable patients (immunosuppressed, pregnant). Apart from this our staff are trained *phlebotomists*; taking of swabs is not part of their competencies.

For pertussis PCR a dry orange-top floq swab is required and these should be kept on site at practices.

For measles, mumps, and influenza the swab needs to be collected into a transport medium (UTM), which we don't routinely send out to practices as they are likely to expire before usage – instead we will taxi the necessary specimen collection kit out to the practice on request.

Note: Mumps PCR testing requires an oral swab (not nasopharyngeal swab) in UTM.

By authority of the Microbiologists
Southern Community Laboratories
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