



West AR Lab Network Regional Laboratory: Guidance for *Candida auris* Colonization Testing

SAMPLE COLLECTION and SHIPMENT

Equipment and Materials Needed

- Collection kits provided upon request. Please email the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab at ARLN@doh.wa.gov.
Specimens must arrive at the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab Monday-Friday and within 96 hours of collection.
- Shipping Materials
 - Category B rated cardboard box
 - Clear, sealable biohazard specimen transport bag with absorbent paper inside
 - 95 kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag
 - Contents sheet in sealable, plastic bag
 - Frozen cold packs (not dry ice)
Note: Upon receipt, immediately place cold packs into freezer and allow them to freeze overnight prior to shipment of specimen.
- Specimen Collection
 - Nylon-flocked swab (BD ESwab collection and transport system; Becton Dickinson and Company, Sparks, MD)

Procedure for Swab Collection

The skin, specifically the axilla and groin, appear to be the highest yield sites to swab to identify patients colonized with *C. auris*.

1. Before beginning, perform hand hygiene and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated by the patient's clinical care team (e.g., gloves, gown, mask).
2. Instructions for sample collection are printed on packaging along with descriptive diagrams, please follow these closely.
3. Open the swab package by grasping the plastic at the opposite end from the soft tip.
4. Carefully remove the tube from its packaging, leaving the swab tip enclosed in the package to prevent contamination.
5. Pull the swab from its package, being careful not to touch the soft tip.
6. **Single swab axilla and groin composite swab collection method:**
 - a. Rub both sides of the swab tip over the left axilla skin surface and then the right, targeting the crease in the skin where the arm meets the body (i.e., swab both armpits, swiping back and forth ~5 times per armpit).
 - b. With the same swab used on the axilla, rub both sides of the swab tip over the left groin skin surface, targeting the inguinal crease in the skin where the leg meets the pelvic region and repeat with the right side (i.e., swab the skin of both hip creases, swiping back and forth ~5 times per hip crease).
7. Remove the cap from the swab collection tube, then place the soft end of the collection swab into the tube. Be careful to keep the cap from touching any materials that may contaminate your sample.
8. Snap off the end of the swab at the marked line by bending the plastic handle against the edge of the transport media container.
9. Screw on the tube cap. You may need to adjust it until the snapped end of the swab slides into place in the center of the cap.
10. Use Parafilm provided in the kit to **seal the top of the tube**. Peel wax paper backing from Parafilm, lightly stretch and firmly wrap strip around the top where the white cap meets the tube. Do not use tape to seal the tube.
11. Write specimen information including **two patient identifiers** on the tube label or apply patient identification label.
12. **Follow the shipping instructions on the following page. Ship immediately to the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab with a frozen cold pack.**
If a delay in shipment cannot be prevented, store the swabs at 4°C until shipment.
Patient swabs must be received for testing within 96 hours of collection



Procedure for Shipping Patient Swabs

Please reference the diagram on the right side of this page

Primary Packaging: The ESwab collection tube

Secondary Packaging: Sealable, clear, plastic biohazard specimen bag with absorbent paper within. Biohazard bag is then placed within a 95kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag.

Outer Packaging: Category B rated cardboard shipping box

1. Check to make sure each ESwab has been firmly screwed closed, sealed with Parafilm and labeled with 2 patient identifiers.
2. Place one ESwab into each clear plastic biohazard specimen bag with an absorbent paper. Firmly seal the biohazard specimen bag.
3. Place the completed requisition form in the unsealed, front pocket of the sealed biohazard bag (Note: Do not include any paperwork within sealed portion of biohazard transport bags).
4. Place the sealed biohazard bag in the 95kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag. (Note: Multiple biohazard bags can be placed within the 95kPa bag; do not overfill.) Firmly seal 95kPa bag.
5. Complete the contents sheet and return it to the plastic bag and seal. Place the plastic bag between the 95kPa bag and the Category B rated cardboard shipping box.
 - a. The contents sheet is a half page. please complete all fields (test name, total number of specimens, collection facility name and collection facility state)
6. Place frozen cold packs into the Category B rated cardboard shipping box followed by filled 95kPa bags.
 - a. Make sure frozen cold packs are sealed and will not leak and damage the shipping box.
 - b. If desired, frozen cold packs and samples can be placed inside a Styrofoam box within the cardboard box.
7. Close shipping box and seal shut. Place shipping label and UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B sticker on outside of box (if not present already).
8. Attach the FedEx return label to the outside of the shipping box and complete the emergency contact sticker found on the outside of the shipping box.
9. Ship immediately to the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab.

Disclaimer

This test has not been cleared or approved by the FDA. The performance characteristics have been established by the Washington State Public Health Lab Antibiotic Resistance Lab Network.

