

NASAL SWAB COLLECTION for Staph aureus/MRSA Screening

Staph aureus/MRSA Screening: Only BBL Culturette II swabs are acceptable
Red cap (double swab) see photo:



One Nostril



Second Nostril

Always wear a new pair of clean gloves for each collection to minimize contamination

- Collect a nasal swab specimen using a sterile BBL Culturette II liquid Stuart media dual swab
- Open outer packaging of BBL Culturette II package
- Loosen cap on transport tube
- Ask patient to tilt back his/her head
- Holding onto the red cap on the collection device, insert dry swabs approximately 2.5 cm into one nostril
- Rotate swabs against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds while applying slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose to assure good contact between the swab and inside of the nose
- Using the same swabs, repeat the process for the second nostril
 - * do not touch anything other than the inside of the nose with the swabs
- Place swabs inside the transport tube- they should rest on the sponge at the bottom of the tube. Make sure red cap is on tight.
- Labeling is to be done in the presence of the patient by the person collecting the specimen: the swab must be labeled with the patient's first and last name, date of birth, the date and time of collection, and the initials or tech (phleb) code of the person collecting the sample.
- Transport swabs to the laboratory in a biohazard bag.
- Store inoculated swabs at room temperature if processing will be completed within 24 hours, otherwise store swabs at 2-8 °C for up to 5 days.