COLLECTION PROTOCOL FOR RAPID STREP SCREENING

Place the patient in a comfortable position, sitting or lying down, and instruct them to tilt their head backward.

Remove swab from swab sheath carefully so swab is not contaminated. Depress the tongue with tongue blade so that the uvula and the back of the throat are visible.

Vigorously swab the tonsillar area and posterior pharynx with the swab. Obtaining the secretions from the exudate from this region ensures proper collection.

Excess blood or mucus on the swab specimen may interfere with the test performance and may yield a false positive result. Avoid touching the tongue, cheeks, teeth, and any bleeding areas of the mouth with the swab when collecting specimens.

Replace swab in the swab sheath and print name legibly on the swab sheath.

SUBMITTAL OF THROAT SWABS TO WPHL:

All throat swabs must be accompanied by a completed WPHL test request form. The WPHL test request form is available on our website.

Please complete ALL information requested in the patient information area of the form. Date of birth is now required.

Confirm the submitter information area is completed including your phone number.

In the test request area of the form, check the Rapid Strep Screen box.

If you are mailing the specimen to WPHL, please remember that throat swabs are considered “Diagnostic specimens” and should be packaged according to USPS regulations.

Send the swab immediately after collection. This will insure the test is completed in a timely manner.