

# HOW TO COLLECT BACTERIAL SWABS INCLUDING MRSA, VRE, Wound Swabs or CPET

Bacterial swabs are used to screen for drug resistant bacteria and to perform culture and sensitivity testing of wounds and other sites.

## **Two products are currently available at LHSC:**

- Single kit with single swab. This is used for any bacterial culture other than MRSA
- Double kit containing one pink and one white swab, with one specimen collection bottle. This is for MRSA swab collection only.

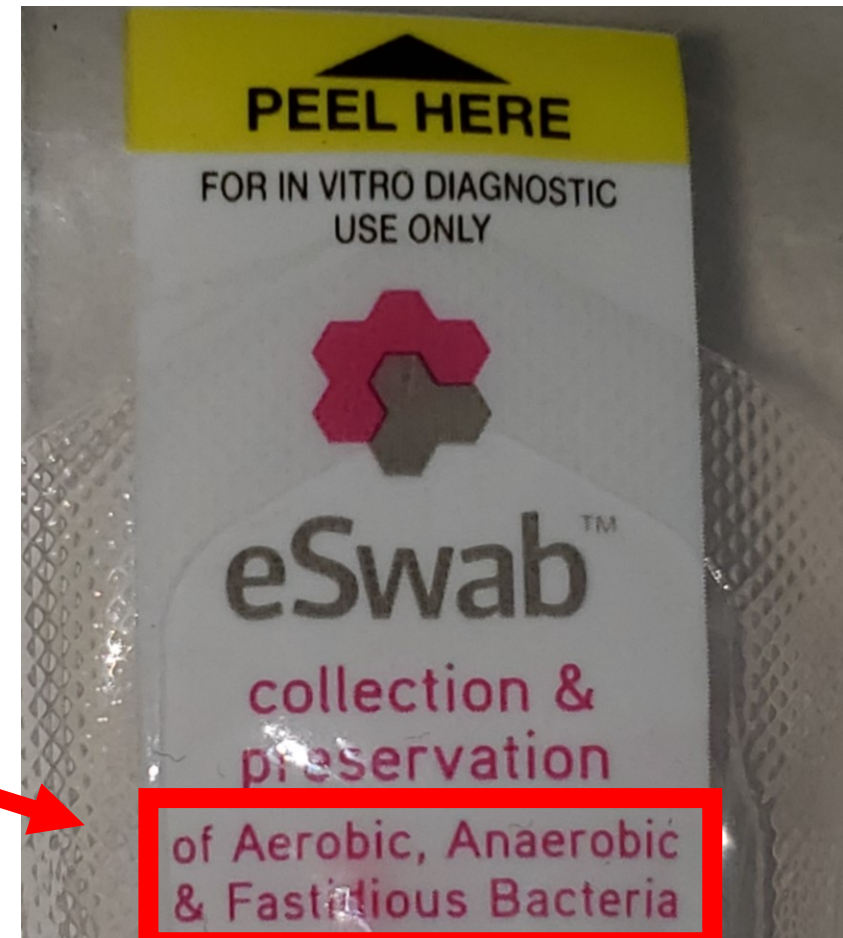
# Select the Correct Swab for Bacterial Cultures

Currently, our viral specimen collection kit is made by the same company (Copan) as our bacterial swab kits (including MRSA).

Be sure you have the right collection kit before starting.


Ensure swab says for

**“Aerobic, Anaerobic and Fastidious Bacteria”**



**Two Available Swab Kits – Single and double swab kits.  
Both have single collection bottle with the same type of medium.**



  
**Dual kit (2-swabs)  
for MRSA screening**

  
**Single swab kit for  
all other bacterial  
collections**

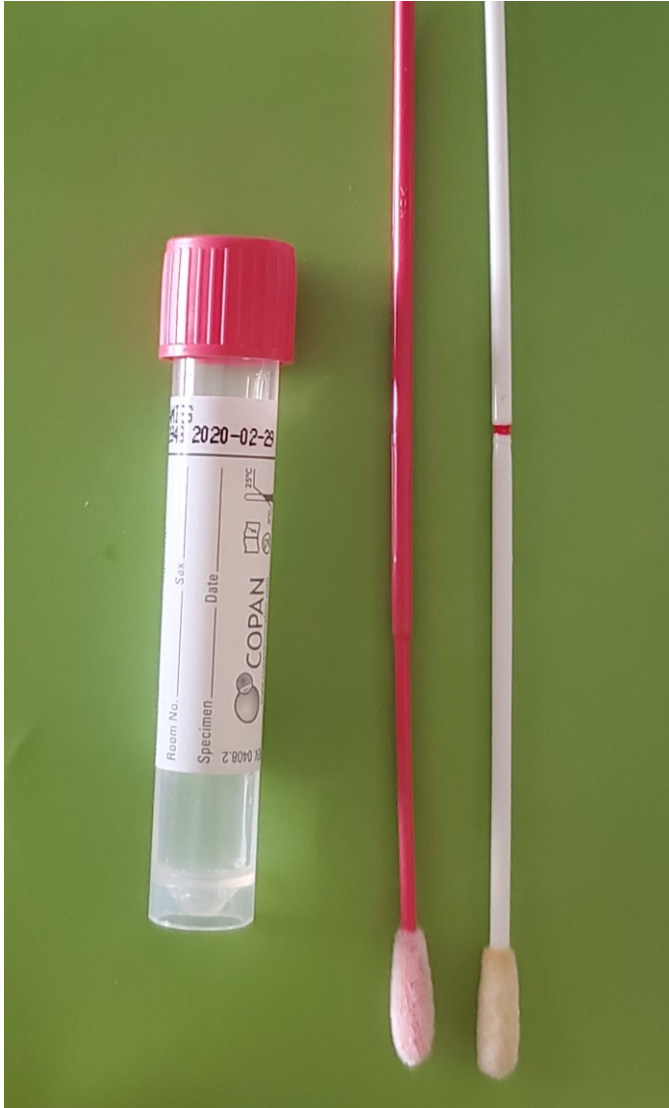


# Collecting MRSA Samples

## Why Two Swabs and One Container?

The two swabs allow both the nasal and the perianal collections to be introduced into a single medium bottle. It doesn't matter whether the patient is positive at the nare or perianal area. This reduces the cost and time for testing by having one specimen to rule MRSA in or out.

The pink cap notifies the lab that this is an MRSA – nasal/rectal collection.



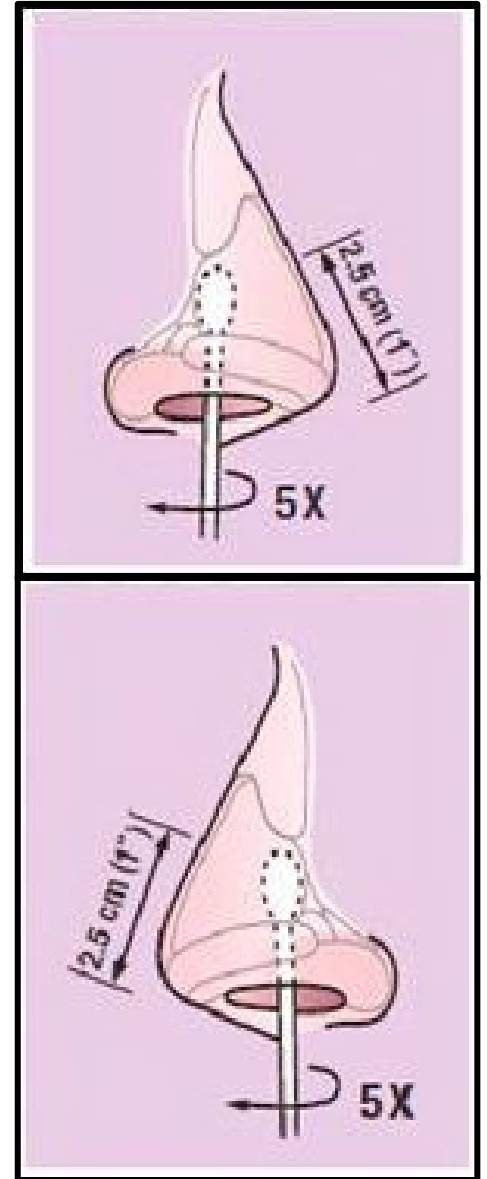
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# Collecting Nasal Swab First



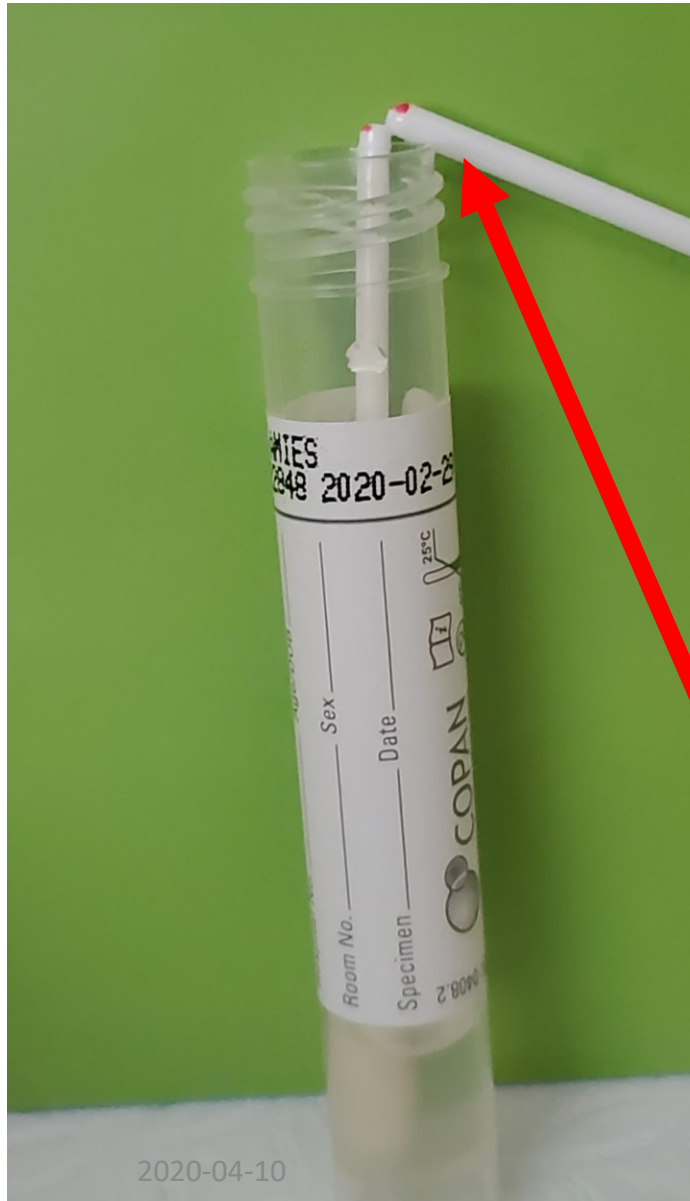
**Pink swab:** Use for nasal swab. Remember Rudolph the “red” [**pink**] **nosed** reindeer).

1. Insert swab approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm). Circle the swab around the nare 5 times
2. Insert swab into opposite nare and repeat steps
3. Open collection container; be careful not to spill the contents as the medium is now liquid.
4. Insert pink swab to the bottom and stir it for 5 full circles.
5. Squeeze out liquid while slowly removing swab.
6. Discard the pink swab.
7. Replace cap to prevent liquid from spilling
8. You are now ready to collect perianal swab



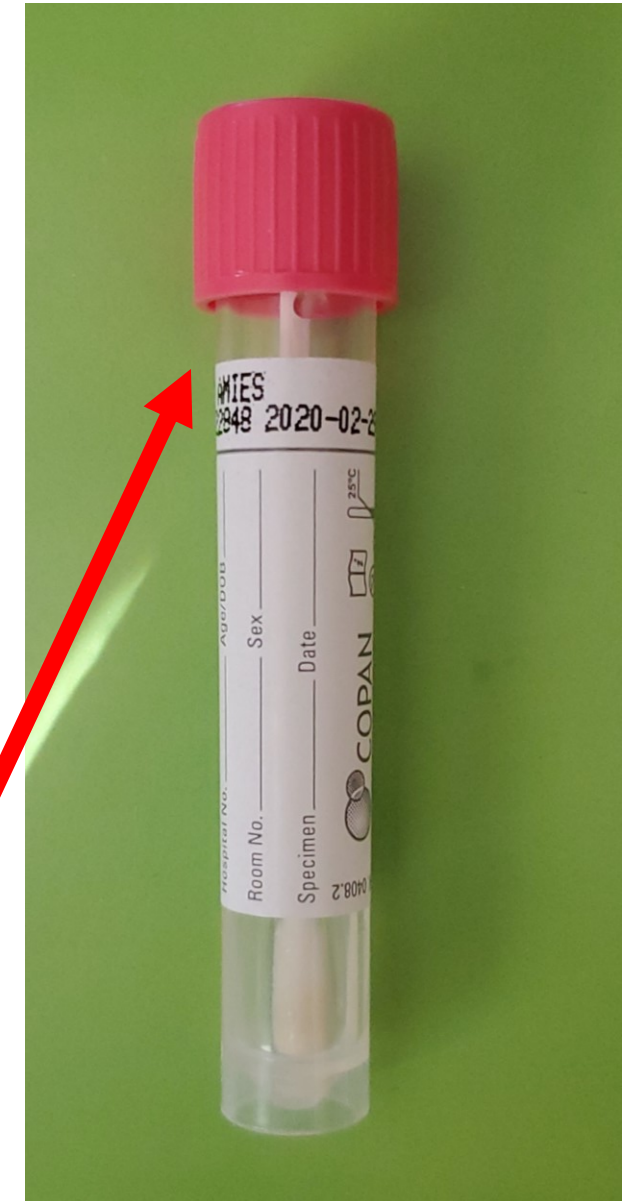


# Collecting Perianal Swab Second



**White swab:** Use for perianal collection  
Remember “white” for toilet paper. The one swab has a break-line indicating it is the last sample collected (perianal).

1. Rub swab back and forth over the perianal area.
2. Open the pink cap and insert the white swab all the way into the collection container.
3. Snap the swab at the red score line.
4. Screw top on tightly leaving white swab inside container.



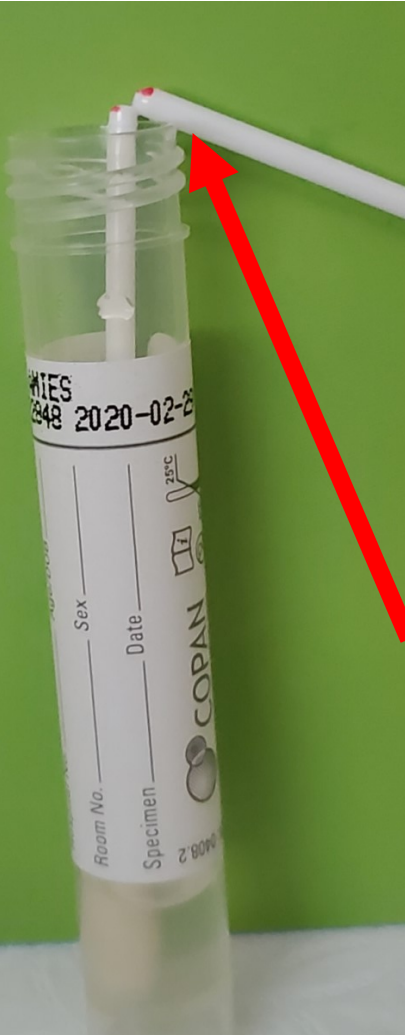
# All Non-MRSA Bacterial Swabs

## Single swab kit:

Use for all other bacterial (C&S) swabs including wound cultures for C&S and Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPET) Screening\*

1. Collect specimen using white swab provided.
2. Open cap and insert swab all the way into collection container.
3. Snap the swab at the red score line.
4. Screw top on tightly leaving white swab in container.

\*Next slide



# Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPET) Screening

Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPET) Screening\* is required for any patient who has been hospitalized or received healthcare in a country other than Canada (including the United States). Surveillance screening may be ordered randomly or following a positive case.

## **Collection of Sample:**

1. A CPET swab is a rectal swab collected using the white single bacterial swab kit.
2. Insert swab 2 cm into the anus. Gently rotate the swab to sample the anal crypts. Fecal matter should be visible on swab.
3. Place the swab into the collection container and break at the red line.
4. Screw top tightly in place.

\*Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae is an emerging form of bacterial resistance. Carbapenemases are highly resistant to beta lactam antibiotics, including carbapenems.