



Policy or Procedure Subject: <b>Buccal Swab Procedure</b>		Number: <b>MOL.PR.022.r00</b>
Department or Section: <b>Education</b>		Issue Date: <b>01/27/2022</b>
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**Principle:** This procedure has been written to provide the steps for collecting a buccal swab, also known as a buccal smear or a cheek swab.

**Supplies:**

- 1) Sterile swab with a cotton tip or frocked tip
- 2) Gloves
- 3) A surgical mask
- 4) Dry transport tube
- 5) Swabbing instructions
- 6) Pen

**Procedure:**

Note: Patient should avoid eating, drinking and nicotine 30 minutes prior to collection. Verify the subject’s mouth is empty.

1. Wash or sanitize hands then put on any personal protective equipment such as mask and gloves
2. Choose a sterile cotton swab or frocked swab.
3. Carefully remove the swab from the package being careful to avoid touching swab tip with gloves or against any surface
4. Hold the swab by the handle. Do not touch the swab above the breakpoint indicator mark on handle
5. Have the subject open his or her mouth and immediately bring the swab tip to the inside of the cheek.
6. Firmly rub and rotate the swab along the inside of the cheek for 10-15 seconds, ensuring the entire swab-tip has made contact with the cheek.
  - a. Use an up and down motion from front to back and back to front
7. Repeat step 6 on the other cheek.
8. Immediately remove the swab, being careful not to touch the swab tip against teeth, lips, tongue, or another surface.
9. Place swab directly into dry transport tube
10. Label the tube using the Label at the Table Method with appropriate identifying information.
11. Store swab at room temperature if transporting sample to the lab the same day.

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Reviewed By		Date				
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