

How to take an MRSA swab

This leaflet explains how to take an MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) swab from your child at home.

Swabbing for MRSA at home

Patients who are admitted to hospital should be screened for MRSA before their surgery. This leaflet explains how to take the swab for screening at home.

Please read all of this leaflet carefully before you start to take the swab. Delays in returning swabs may result in delays to surgery.

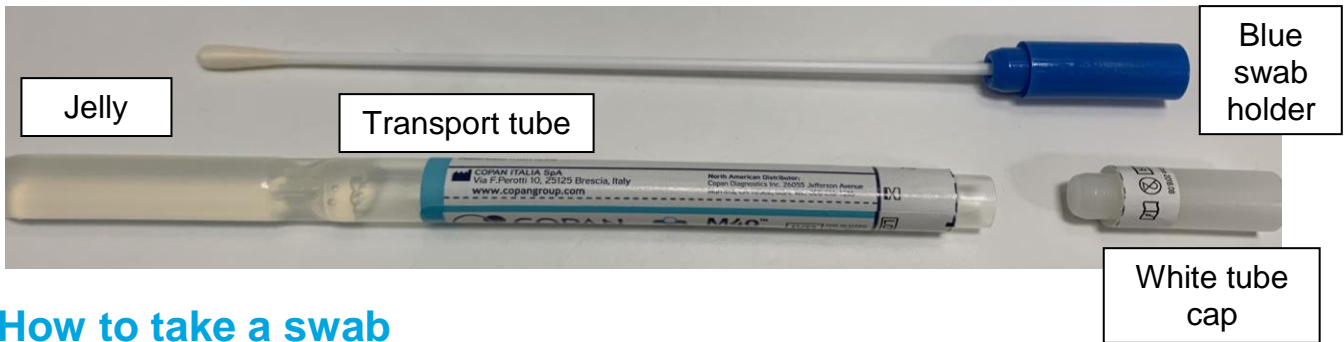
In your pack, you will receive **3 swabs** with barcode stickers, a sample box and a pre-paid addressed postage bag. Each swab is for a different part of the body - the nose (both nostrils), throat and groin.

- Please complete your swab in the morning and **post back immediately from a Post Office**, [w: www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)
- Swabs can **only** be posted **Monday to Thursday**.
Do not post on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

In your pack, you will receive **three** swabs with barcode stickers, a 'date taken on' note, leak-proof bag with absorbent pad and sticker to seal the box.

You will also receive a pre-paid addressed postage bag.





How to take a swab

Wash your hands with soap and water, and dry thoroughly.

Swabbing the nose - one swab is used for both nostrils

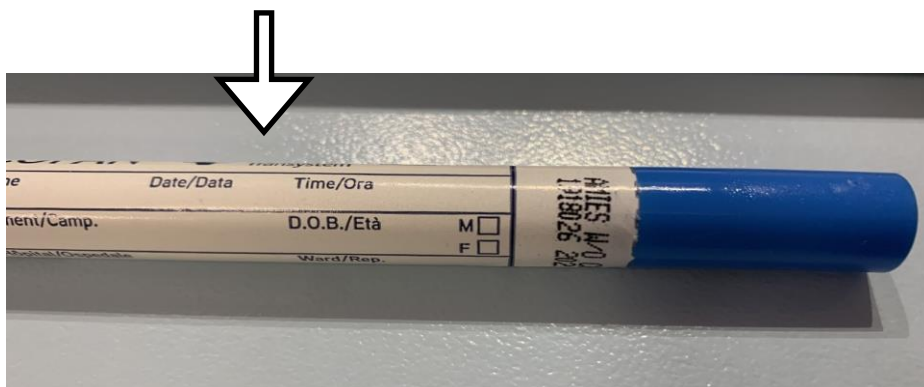
1. Twist to remove the white tube cap from the transport tube.
2. Remove the swab by holding the blue swab holder.
3. Gently insert swab into the transport tube to dampen it with the transport jelly.



4. Remove swab from the transport tube and insert the swab about 1-2cm into one nostril.
5. Rotate the swab so it touches the inside surfaces of the nose for three seconds.
6. Using the same swab, repeat step 5 in the other nostril.
7. Place the swab back into the transport tube
8. Make sure the end of the swab is firmly closed, and that the swab tip is touching the moist jelly at the bottom.
9. Attach the barcode sticker and write 'nose' on the sample section.

Swabbing the throat

1. Twist to remove the white tube cap from the transport tube.
2. Remove the swab by holding the blue swab holder (**do not dampen in jelly**).
3. Get your child to open their mouth wide and stick their tongue out.
4. Swab the back of their throat.
5. Place the swab back into the transport tube.
6. Make sure the end of the swab is firmly closed, and make sure that the swab tip is touching the moist jelly at the bottom.
7. Attach the barcode sticker and write 'throat' on the sample section.



Swabbing the groin

1. Twist to remove the white tube cap from the transport tube.
2. Remove the swab by holding the blue swab holder.
3. Gently insert swab into the transport tube to dampen it with the transport jelly.
4. Rotate the moistened swab on your child's groin area firmly.
5. Place the swab back into the transport tube.
6. Make sure the end of the swab is firmly closed, and make sure that the swab tip is touching the moist jelly at the bottom.
7. Attach the barcode sticker and write 'groin' on the sample section.
8. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry thoroughly.

How to return the swabs?

- Once you have correctly labelled the swabs, put them into the plastic bag with the absorbent pad.
- Place this bag into the cardboard box and use the sticker to seal the box.
- Place the box in the pre-paid address postage bag.
- You will need to take the bag to a **Post Office** to post it. It cannot go in a post box.
- Please complete your swab in the morning and post back **immediately**. Swabs must be received within 24 hours of being taken, so that they can be processed.
- The laboratory cannot process swabs over the weekend, so please **only** post them back from **Monday to Thursday**.
- **Do not** post swabs on **Friday, Saturday or Sunday**. Delays in returning swabs may result in delays to surgery.

What happens next?

If your child's results are **negative**, we will not contact you, but we will see you and your child on the day of your admission for surgery.

If your child's results are **positive**, they will need to undergo treatment to reduce any infection risks for you child and other patients they may come into contact with. This may result in a short delay to your child's admission date.

Your child's pre-assessment nurse will discuss this treatment with you. It usually involves using an antibacterial body and hair wash. This treatment is for five days and then we would **repeat** the swabbing to make sure that the test is negative before admitting your child for surgery.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about MRSA swabbing, please call the hospital, **t:** 020 7188 7188 extension 56225, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. This will connect you directly to a nurse in pre-assessment.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

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