



PDS is no longer accepting Gel Swabs for PCR Testing

Effective immediately PDS will no longer be accepting swabs in gel media for PCR testing. Gel makes swabs unsuitable for testing due to inhibition of the PCR reaction. Synthetic swabs (Dacron or similar) should be placed in a clean tube with viral transport media, or a few drops of isotonic saline”.

Acceptable Swabs for PCR Tests

Multitrans™ Collection and Transportation Systems, Starplex®

<https://ca.vwr.com/store/product/en/4953766/multitransm-collection-and-transportation-systems-starplex>

Puritan™ UniTranz-RT Transport Systems

<https://www.fishersci.ca/shop/products/puritan-medical-products-unitranz-rt-transport-systems-13/p-4574207#?keyword=COPAN%20Diagnostics%20UTM%E2%84%A2%20Viral%20Specimen%20Collection%20Kit>

BD Universal Viral Transport Collection Kits

<https://www.fishersci.ca/shop/products/bd-universal-viral-transport-collection-kits-5/B220531#?keyword=BD%20Universal%20Viral%20Transport%20Collection%20Kits>

Puritan® Dry Transport Systems, Puritan Medical Products – (**only Standard Polyester Tip on Polystyrene Handle**)

<https://ca.vwr.com/store/product/en/13288560/puritan-dry-transport-systems-puritan-medical-products>

BD BBL™ CultureSwab™ Sterile, Media-free Swabs

<https://www.fishersci.ca/shop/products/bbl-cultureswab-sterile-media-free-swabs/B4320115#?keyword=-BD%20BBL%E2%84%A2%20CultureSwab%E2%84%A2%20Transport%20Systems>

It is important to note that:

- Gel swabs cannot be placed in a different tube with saline and be sent to the lab. The remaining gel on the swab can still cause PCR inhibition, and results will be inconclusive.
- Swabs on viral transport media cannot be used for bacterial culture, as they contain antimicrobials. If samples need to be tested in bacteriology and PCR, it is recommended to send one of the swabs mentioned above for PCR testing, and a gel swab for bacteriology.
- Swabs MUST have a polyester or rayon tip (cotton or other natural materials are not suitable).
- **BD BBL™ CultureSwab™ Transport Systems (polyester/rayon tip)** with liquid Amies or Stuart media are suitable for bacterial culture of aerobes and PCR testing
(<https://www.fishersci.ca/shop/products/bd-bbl-cultureswab-transport-systems-liquid-amies-single-swab-1/B4320093#?keyword=-BD%20BBL%E2%84%A2%20CultureSwab%E2%84%A2%20Transport%20Systems>,
<https://www.fishersci.ca/shop/products/bd-bbl-cultureswab-transport-systems-liquid-stuart-single-swab-1/B4320099#?keyword=-BD%20BBL%E2%84%A2%20CultureSwab%E2%84%A2%20Transport%20Systems>)