

## HOW TO TAKE A THROAT SWAB

1. Ensure hands have been cleansed prior to undertaking the procedure.
2. Prepare all the necessary equipment, ie specimen container, swab, sample form.
3. Explain the procedure to the patient.
4. Ask the patient to sit in such a position that the patient is facing a strong light source.
5. Depress the tongue with a disposable spatula.
6. Use either a plain sterile white swab or a wire sterile swab with white tip.
7. Insert sterile swab into the mouth and wipe along the back of the throat for approx.
8. Place the swab with the cotton tip end into either a **viral transport medium** container (contains fluid) or a **universal container** (does not contain any fluid).
9. **Do not insert the swab into a charcoal sample container.**
10. Break off the shaft of the plain sterile white swab. If using a wire sterile swab, use scissors to cut the shaft of the swab.
11. Ensure the lid can be secured properly to prevent any leakage.
12. Cleanse hands again.

