

Instructions for MRSA Swab Testing at Home

Introduction

This leaflet explains how you can take a swab to test if you are carrying the MRSA bacteria. You have received various materials for this purpose. Please read the instructions in full before you start. If you are currently taking antibiotics, there is no point in taking the swabs (cultures). In that case, please contact the Infection Prevention Department at Amphia Hospital.

MRSA

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a bacterium that is insensitive (resistant) to many types of antibiotics and, therefore, difficult to treat. MRSA mainly causes infections in patients with weak immune systems.

Cultures

The materials needed:

- Three sterile packets containing a cotton swab and a tube (photo 1).
- MRSA application form from Microvida.
- Stickers with your patient details including an indication of 'throat', 'nose' and 'perineum'.
- Return envelope containing a cardboard holder, a plastic bag (safety bag) and a white absorbent bag.



Instructions

1. Enter the date of collection on Microvida's MRSA application form.

2. The collection kit contains a tube of liquid and a cotton bud (swab).
3. Open the sterile packet at the top (photo 2).
4. Insert the swab into the nose and brush several times along the nostril and into the tip of the nose (photo 3).
5. Repeat in the other nostril with the same swab.
6. Remove the cap from the tube containing the liquid. Be careful not to spill it.



Foto 2



Foto 3

7. Put the cotton bud into the liquid and break it off at the indicated line (photo 4).
8. Screw the cap back onto the tube, squeezing the cotton bud into the tube.
9. Check that the cap is properly closed and does not leak.
10. Stick the sticker with your details and the inscription 'nose' on the tube.
11. Then take the throat culture by rubbing the cotton bud along both tonsils (photo 5).



Foto 4



Foto 5

12. Put the cotton bud in the tube.
13. Stick the sticker with your details and the inscription 'throat' on the tube.
14. Then take the perineal culture by swabbing the skin between the anus and external genitalia (photo 6).
15. Stick the sticker with your patient details and the inscription 'perineum' on the tube.

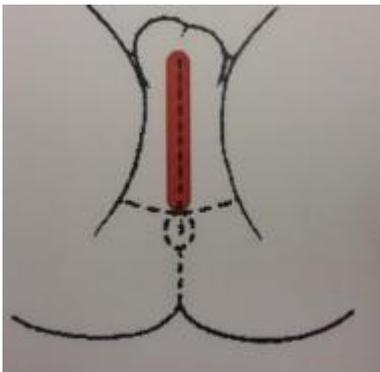


Foto 6

Important

Please contact the Infection Prevention Department if you have:

- A wound
- Skin disorders (e.g. eczema)
- A urinary catheter
- Coughing up phlegm (sputum)

Packaging

See the instructions for packaging the tubes on the back of the return envelope.

Returning the envelope

The fastest method is to hand in the return envelope at the Blood Collection Department at any of the Amphia locations. You can also put the return envelope in the post; a stamp is not required.

Results

The results of the test will take at least three days.

The specialist who requested the test will contact you when they get the results.

Questions

We are happy to help. If you have any questions, please contact the Infection Prevention Department. Telephone number: +31 76 595 31 88

Read more about how we prevent, detect and treat infections at Amphia.

[Go to the Infection Prevention Department \(https://www.amphia.nl/kwaliteit/kwaliteit-en-veiligheid/infectiepreventie\)](https://www.amphia.nl/kwaliteit/kwaliteit-en-veiligheid/infectiepreventie)