



# West AR Lab Network Regional Laboratory: Guidance for CRE Colonization Testing

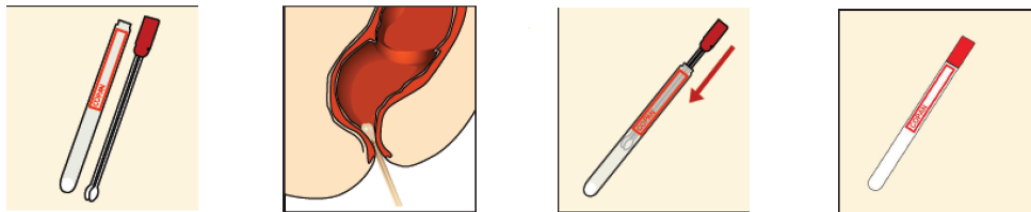
## SAMPLE COLLECTION and SHIPMENT

### Equipment and Materials

- Collection kits provided upon request. Please email the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab at [ARLN@doh.wa.gov](mailto:ARLN@doh.wa.gov).
  - \*Specimens must arrive at the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab Monday-Friday by 12pm and within 5 days of collection.\*
- Shipping Materials
  - Category B Rated Cardboard Box
  - Clear, sealable biohazard specimen transport bag with absorbent paper inside
  - 95 kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag
  - Contents sheet in sealable, plastic bag
  - **(Optional)** Frozen Cold Packs (not dry ice) may be used if samples shipped with other sample types (*Candida auris*) requiring cold shipment conditions
- Specimen Collection
  - Transystem Liquid Stuart dual plastic applicators rayon tipped (Copan Italia SPA, Brescia, Italy)

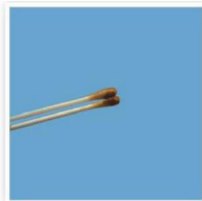
### Procedure for Rectal Swab Collection

1. Before beginning, perform hand hygiene and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated by the patient's clinical care team (e.g., gloves, gown, mask).
2. Instructions for swabs are printed on packaging along with descriptive diagrams, please follow these closely.
3. Open the swab package at the point marked "Peel Here".
4. Remove white cap from transport tube and discard.
5. Pull the swab from its package, being careful not to touch the soft tip. Discard the packaging.
6. Collect specimen by carefully inserting both swab tips **approximately 1 cm beyond the anal sphincter and rotate gently, 2-3 times.**
  - a. Please reference the diagrams below to ensure proper collection.



Acceptable

Unacceptable



7. Place applicator swab in transport tube. Replace the **red cap** firmly.
8. Use Parafilm provided in the kit to **seal the top of the tube**. Peel wax paper backing from Parafilm, lightly stretch and firmly wrap strip around the top where the red cap meets the tube. Do not use tape to seal the tube.

9. Write specimen information including **two patient identifiers** on the tube label or apply a patient identification label.
10. **Follow the shipping instructions on the following page. Ship immediately to the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab.**

**\*If a delay in shipment cannot be prevented, store the swabs at 4°C until shipment.\***  
**\*Patient swabs must be received for testing within 5 days of collection.\***

### Procedure for Shipping Patient Swabs

**\*Please reference the diagram on the right side of this page.\***

- **Primary Packaging:** The Transystem collection tube
  - **Secondary Packaging:** Sealable, clear, plastic biohazard specimen bag with absorbent paper within. Biohazard bag is then placed within a 95kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag.
  - **Outer Packaging:** Category B rated cardboard shipping box
1. Check to make sure each collection tube has been firmly sealed with Parafilm and appropriately labeled with 2 patient identifiers.
  2. Place one tube into each clear plastic biohazard specimen bag with an absorbent paper. Firmly seal the biohazard specimen bag.
  3. Place the completed requisition form in the unsealed, front pocket of the sealed biohazard bag. (Note: Do not include any paperwork inside the sealed portion of biohazard transport bags).
  4. Place the sealed biohazard bags in a 95kPa compliant biohazard specimen transport bag. (Note: Multiple biohazard bags can be placed within the 95kPa bag; do not overfill.) Firmly seal 95kPA bag.
  5. Complete the contents sheet and return it to the plastic bag and seal. Place the plastic bag between the 95kPA bag and the Category B rated cardboard shipping box.
    - a. The contents sheet is half a page. Please complete all fields (test name, total number of specimens, collection facility name and collection facility state)
  6. **If you are only shipping CRE colonization screening isolates, skip to step 7. If shipping with other specimen types that require cold shipment (*Candida auris*), place frozen cold packs into the Category B compliant shipping box, followed by the filled and sealed 95kPA bag.**
    - a. Make sure frozen cold packs are properly sealed and will not leak and damage the shipping box.
    - b. If desired, frozen cold packs and samples can be placed inside a Styrofoam box within the cardboard box.
  7. Close shipping box and seal shut. Place shipping label and UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B sticker on outside of box (if not present already).
  8. Attach the FedEx label to the outside of the box and complete the emergency contact sticker found on the outside of the shipping box.
  9. Ship immediately to the West AR Lab Network Regional Lab.

