How To...
Obtain a Throat Swab Specimen*  

**PREPARING THE PATIENT**

- Choose a well-lit room.
- Stand directly in front of the patient.
- Place the patient in a comfortable sitting position facing a light source.
- Avoid touching the swab tip to any surface other than the tonsil area.

**REMOVE THE SWAB**

Remove the sterile swab from the protective packaging. Hold the swab firmly by the handle. DO NOT place the swab on any surface once it is removed from the protective packaging.

**PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS**

- Instruct patient to open mouth as wide as possible.
- Instruct patient to say “ahh.” The tonsil area may be reddened, swollen, or have white patches.
**Obtaining a Specimen (con't.)**

- Touch the swab tip to the tonsil area.
- Rub the swab tip quickly and firmly over this area to obtain a good sample.
- Remove swab from mouth (without touching any surface).
- A gag reflex reaction is very common when a good sample is obtained.
- It is recommended that the swab specimen be processed as soon as possible after collection.