

2.4. Collection of a Vaginal Swab Sample

Wash your hands thoroughly before collecting the swab. If you have questions about how to collect the swab, please ask your physician or nurse.

1. Open the kit package.
2. Remove the tube, open it and stand it vertically on a table. Place the flat side of the lid on the table. Do not empty out the liquid already inside the tube; if you spill some inadvertently, ask for a new kit.
3. Partly open the package containing the swab. Do not touch the tip of the swab. If you touch the tip of the swab or if the swab falls on the floor, ask for a new kit.
4. Remove the swab from its packaging, holding it mid-shaft between two fingers. (Refer to Diagram 1).
5. Insert the swab gently about 5 cm (2 inches) into the vaginal opening. Gently turn the swab while rubbing it against the vaginal wall for 10 to 30 seconds. (Refer to Diagram 2).
6. Remove the swab from the vagina, ensuring that it does not come in contact with any skin.
7. Immediately place the swab into the APTIMA transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube, then carefully break the shaft at the score line by pressing against the transport tube. (Refer to Diagram 3).
8. Close the APTIMA transport tube hermetically. (Refer to Diagram 4).
9. The tube must be stored immediately in the refrigerator.
10. Once the specimen is collected, the APTIMA transport tube must be transported and stored at 2 °C to 30 °C until the test can be performed.

