

SARS-CoV-2 Environmental Surface Testing (Swab)

Agrifood Technology is now able to provide a new testing service for SARS-CoV-2 corona virus, this provides an opportunity to assess the need for cleaning and determine whether cleaning is performed adequately.

This service is only for testing on environmental surfaces and is not for clinical testing on individuals.

SWAB & TEST INFORMATION:

What swabs are used for testing?

Environmental samples need to be taken using a swab with a synthetic tip or plastic shaft.

The swabs specimen collection vials should contain 1-3 ml of viral transport medium (Agrifood will provide swabs for testing).

What is the swabbing procedure?

Collecting environment samples in an aseptic manner is critical to ensuring quality test results.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be worn before coronavirus environmental samples are collected, including: respirator or mask, gloves, protective eyewear and laboratory coat.

Wash your hands up to the forearm for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before taking environmental specimens. Use clean disposable towels to dry your hands.

Wear supplied disposable gloves before taking a sample.



Below you will find the stepwise sampling recommendations for collecting coronavirus environmental samples:

- 1. Before sampling, label the swab tubes with a unique sampling site location identifier (e.g. Swab #1), Date, Time and Sample taken.
- 2. Unscrew cap from tube.
- 3. Aseptically remove swab from tube. Carefully remove the swab from its tube so it does not touch the edge of the container opening. Do not touch the swab or stem with your hands.
- 4. Thoroughly swab the sampling site location by using even back and forth vertical, horizontal and diagonal motions while rotating the swab. Swab an area of 25 to 100 cm2.
- 5. Carefully replace the swab back into its tube being careful not to touch the edge of the container opening. Screw cap tight to close.
- 6. Wipe down the sampling site with an alcohol wipe after sampling of the site is complete.
- 7. Store the swab at 2-5°C until shipped to the laboratory for testing.
- 8. Evenly place ice packs in container surrounding the specimen tubes to ensure temperature control. Ship samples as soon as possible so that laboratory testing can begin within 24 hours of sampling.

How many swabs are required for an area?

It's important to understand that the facility size does not necessarily dictate the number of specimens that should be collected. Rather, the number of identified high-risk commonly touched surfaces should dictate the number of sampling sites.

Sampling sites should be determined based on the risk associated with common touch points and facility design before specimen collection begins to take place. High-risk sampling sites may include



but are not limited to: Time clocks, doors, hand washing stations, shared keyboards, shared equipment and utensils, break rooms, locker rooms and outdoor smoking areas etc.

When determining if a sampling site is high, medium, or low risk you should consider the percentage of your employees who come in contact with the identified surface or object and opportunity for wide spread transmission of the virus. Higher risk sites should be sampled at a greater sampling frequency than lower risk sites.

Who takes the swabs?

It is the client's responsibilities to take the swabs.

Where is the testing undertaken & where do swabs need to be sent?

At Agrifood Derrimut laboratory - Microbiology site.

Location: 525 Mount Derrimut Rd, Derrimut, VIC 3030, Australia

How long does it take to get a result?

Turnaround Time is 48 hours from the time of sample receipt.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions on COVID-19 testing, please do not hesitate to contact us on: **PH: 1800 801 312 or Email:** lab.vic@agrifood.com.au.