

# TEST UPDATE

## Group A Strep Testing Moving to PCR

### UVMMMC

Effective 9/20/23, Group A Streptococcus (*Streptococcus pyogenes*) throat swab testing is moving from a culture based test to a PCR test. This testing is performed on patients with signs and symptoms of Streptococcal pharyngitis. The testing is a rapid PCR test for Group A Strep from throat swab specimens without the need for a culture confirmation of negative Strep A results.

For collection and transport of throat swab specimens, use the ESwab collection kit.

- Throat swab specimens must be collected and tested before the printed expiration date on the ESwab collection kit label.
- Do not freeze ESwab specimens

Orderable	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Order LOINC
Group A Strep PCR	LAB14535	STREPPCR	FAH6161	60489-2
Result Components	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Test ID	Result LOINC
Group A Strep PCR	12301011926	STREP	FAH6162	60489-2
Specimen Requirements				
Container	Specimen	Temp	Collect/Submit	Stability
Eswab Bacterial Collection Kit	Throat	Ambient	Swab/Swab in vial	48 hours

#### Swab Collection Procedure:

1. Use the ESwab Collection and Transport System (Bacterial/Viral/Fungal Collection Kit). Remove the swab from the wrapper.
2. Swab the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and other inflamed areas. Avoid touching the tongue, cheeks, and teeth with the swab when collecting specimens.
3. Uncap the ESwab transport tube.
4. Place the specimen-containing swab into the ESwab transport tube and break the swab at the indicated score line.
5. Cap the ESwab transport tube.

#### Specimen storage temperature and stability for transport to the lab:

- 15 – 30 C up to 48 hours
- 2 – 8 C up to 6 days

Orderable to be Discontinued	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID
Group A Strep Culture (Pharyngitis Culture)	LAB502	THSC	N/A

For questions or concerns regarding this update, please contact UVMMMC Lab Customer Service at (802)847-5121 and ask to speak with Microbiology.

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