

Specimen Collection – Skin

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Label the specimen collection tubes with the appropriate body site-specific pre-printed labels.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Small (2mL) screw-top (external thread) MoBio collection tubes containing 750uL of specimen collection buffer (MoBio)
2. Pre-printed labels for all specimens to be collected.
3. Sterile Catch-All™ Swabs (Epicentre Biotechnologies, Madison WI)
4. Vial of sterile and filtered SCF-1 (50 mM Tris buffer [pH 7.6], 1 mM EDTA [pH 8.0], and 0.5% Tween-20) to pre-moisten Catch-All swabs prior to specimen collection
5. A tube rack or box to hold collected specimens.
6. Small ice chest with ice.

Aseptic technique will be used for collection of all specimens (appendix). A single pair of gloves may be worn to collect all of the skin specimens from a subject, with care taken to avoid contamination of the gloves. If the gloved hand used to stretch the skin for sampling comes in contact with sampling area, the glove(s) should be changed before sampling the next site.

PROCEDURE:

1. Moisten the Catch-All swab in SCF-1 solution.
2. Hold the swab so the shaft is parallel to the skin surface and rub the swab back and forth approximately 25-50 times along the surface applying firm pressure while rotating the swab head continuously. This requires approximately 15-30 seconds.
3. Insert the swab head into the tube containing the MoBio buffer.
4. Cut the head of the swab from handle and screw the tube cap in place.
5. Place the tubes in a rack or box over ice until all the samples have been collected.

6. Store samples at -20°C (maximum for 2 days) or -80°C until further use.
7. Follow shipping guidelines.

