

# Taking a swab at home from your vagina to check for infections

Department of Gynaecology

Information for Patients

Produced: August 2020

Review: June 2023

Leaflet number: 1013 Version: 1.1

## Introduction

This leaflet tells you how to take a swab of your vagina. Your doctor needs you to take this test to look for infections.

## Why do I need to be checked for infections?

A vaginal swab to check you do not have infections is part of our tests, before you can have certain medical procedures. Without the result from the swab, your medical procedure cannot be booked.

## Which infections will you test for?

From your swab we test for infections such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea. These are sexually transmitted infections, and if found will need to be treated before you can have further medical procedures.

## How to take a swab at home from your vagina

Before you start, please read the instructions and label your swab tube by writing the following details **clearly in block capitals**:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

**Step 1:** Wash your hands.

Put one foot on a chair and keep the other foot on the ground; this will help you to access your vagina more easily. Twist the cap on the swab to break the seal. **Do not touch the soft tip.**

**Step 2:** Hold the swab by the cap so that the soft tip is pointing towards you. With your other hand, gently spread apart the skin outside of your vagina.

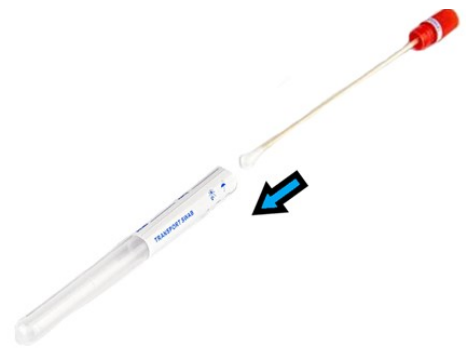
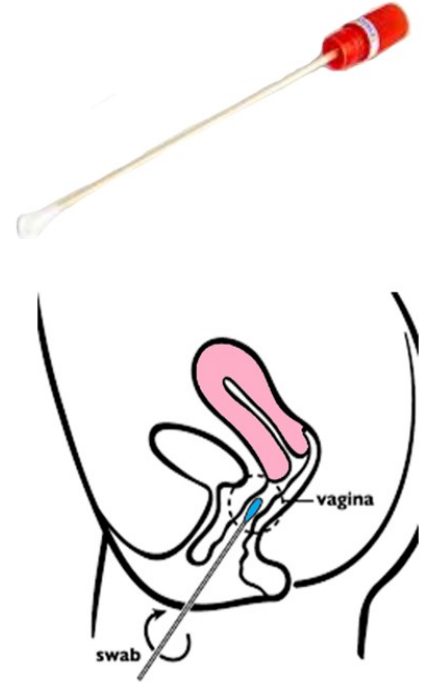
**Step 3:** Gently push the swab into your vagina and point the tip towards your lower back.

Slide the swab no more than 5cm (about half a finger length) into your vagina, twisting as you push.

Rotate the swab inside your vagina for 10 to 15 seconds.

**Step 4:** Take the swab out without touching the skin.

Put the swab inside the tube and close it securely by pushing the cap in.

**Where do I take the sample?**

Put your sample in the bag provided with the form, and seal the bag with the sticky strip. You will need to bring the sample to Leicester Royal Infirmary - Kensington Building, Gynaecology Outpatients, so it can go for testing. You can come Monday to Friday (but not weekends) between 9am and 12 noon. There are drop-off parking bays at the front of the Kensington Building that you can use.

It is important that you bring your sample to the hospital **within 6 hours** of you taking a swab; any later than this will mean we cannot use this sample to get accurate results.

**Contact details**

If you have any questions, please contact us on 0116 258 5272.

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على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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