

SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLECTING BULK AND SWAB SAMPLES

The suggestions below should not be interpreted as complete sampling instructions. Decisions regarding collection of samples should be made by the on-site field investigator. These suggestions are made with the assumption that the investigator is experienced in collecting environmental microbiological samples.

Bulk Samples

- Collect bulk samples with the enclosed Whirl-Pak bags.*
- Collect bulk samples (wallboard, carpeting, ceiling tiles, water, etc.) using sterile or sanitized utensils (knives, scissors, scoops, etc.). Sterilization of utensils may be done using a heat/steam/pressure sterilizer. Sanitizing may be done by wiping the utensil with 70% isopropyl alcohol and allowing to air dry. Alcohol wipes are enclosed for this purpose.

Surface Samples Using Swabs

- Collect wipe/swab samples with the enclosed sterile swabs. Remove cap with attached swab from the tube. The swab is sterile. Do not allow the portion of the swab that fits in the test tube to touch fingers or other surfaces except the surface being sampled.
- Collect sample by vigorously swabbing a measured area with a dry swab.
- Replace swab in tube and tighten cap.

Ship to the laboratory in an insulated container by overnight carrier to:

**PathCon Laboratories
270 Scientific Drive, Suite 3
Norcross GA 30092
Phone # 770-446-0540**