

# Best Practices for Collection of Buccal Swabs for Genotyping Experiments

For optimal yield and quality of DNA isolated with the MagMAX™ DNA Multi-Sample Ultra Kit

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**WARNING!** Read the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and follow the handling instructions. Wear appropriate protective eyewear, clothing, and gloves. Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are available from [thermofisher.com/support](http://thermofisher.com/support).

This document is intended as a reference for swab collection sites.

## Guidelines for swab collection, handling, and storage

- Use one of the following polyester swabs with foam tips. Use of cotton or generic polyester swabs may result in lower DNA yields or DNA that contains PCR inhibitors.
  - Puritan™ PurFlock™ Ultra Flocked Swabs (Fisher Scientific, Cat. no. 22-025-192)
  - Puritan™ HydraFlock® Swabs, standard tip (Puritan, Cat. no. 25-3306-H)
  - Sterile Foam Tipped Swabs (Puritan, Cat. no. 25-1506 1PF)
  - 4N6FLOQSwabs™, regular tip (Cat. no. 4473979)
- If using an external collection site, upon receipt of samples, ensure that the buccal swab type returned from the collection site matches the type that was provided.
- Follow “Collect buccal swab samples” on page 1. Using the proper swabbing procedure is critical to avoid inclusion of PCR inhibitors and to ensure sufficient DNA yields. Verify that collection technicians are trained in swab collection. Do not rely on test subjects to collect swab samples themselves.
- Collect two swabs from each test subject.
- Store buccal swabs in the original pouch. Do not use plastic tubes. Bacterial growth in sealed plastic tubes can cause DNA degradation.
- For best results, ship buccal swab samples at 25°C or below.
- Buccal swab samples can be safely stored for up to 3 weeks at –20°C to room temperature before extraction with the MagMAX™ DNA Multi-Sample Ultra Kit.

## Collect buccal swab samples

Wear gloves when handling swabs.

1. For best results, direct test subjects to thoroughly rinse their mouths with water prior to swabbing.
2. Carefully remove the swab from its pouch.  
Note: Do not fully separate the two sides of the pouch.
3. Vigorously rub the inside of each cheek and over the gums of the test subject for 30 seconds (1 minute total per swab).  
Collect one swab at a time, and hold the swab as close to its head as is comfortable for the test subject.
4. Air dry the swab for 1 minute, then carefully place it back into its original pouch.  
Two swabs from the same test subject may be placed in the same pouch.
5. Place swab samples in their original pouches into a secondary envelope for shipping.
6. For all samples, record the collection date and storage temperature before shipping.

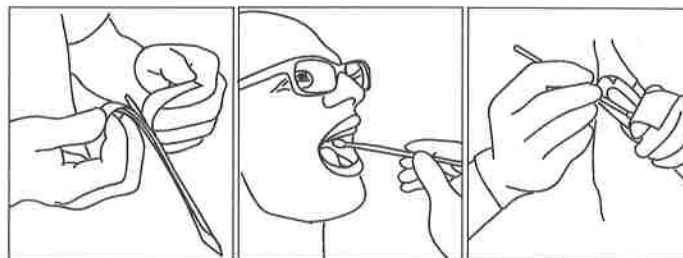


Figure 1 Buccal swab collection procedure

For support visit [thermofisher.com/support](http://thermofisher.com/support) or email [techsupport@lifetech.com](mailto:techsupport@lifetech.com)

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