

MGH COVID-19 Household Contacts at Risk (CAR) Study

Saliva collection instructions for children under 3 years

Please take a moment to read through these instructions completely before you begin.

Your saliva collection kit should include a swab inside a plastic tube and a small plastic container with a blue cap and a label on the side (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Instructions for collecting the sample:

1. Remove the swab from the plastic tube.

Do not set the swab down or touch any surfaces with it.

2. Throw the plastic tube the swab came in into the trash.
3. Have your child stick their tongue out so you can see the front two thirds of the tongue (Figure 2).
4. Firmly, but gently brush the provided swab along the top of the tongue from the back to the front (Figure 3).

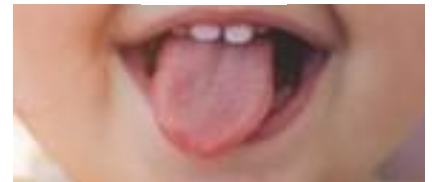
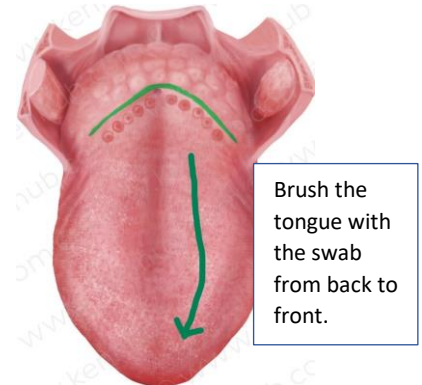


Figure 2

The swab should come across about 2/3 of the tongue's length.

5. Remove the blue cap from the small plastic container, which may contain liquid or a sponge inside.
6. Place the swab into the container.
7. Press the swab handle against the side of the container to break off the excess length.
8. Throw the excess length in the trash.
9. Screw the top onto the container *tightly*.
10. Write your child's name and date of birth on the label.
11. Write the date and time you collected the sample on the label.
12. Proceed to packing and shipping instructions provided separately.

Figure 3



Brush the tongue with the swab from back to front.

Make sure to swab two thirds (2/3) of the length of the tongue.

If you have any questions after reviewing these instructions, please call or email Elizabeth Oliver at 617-643-3677 or carstudy@mgh.harvard.edu.