

Specimen Type:

- › Swab - collect 2 swabs if both strep screen and culture are requested.

Unacceptable Specimens:

- › Dry culturette – ampule not crushed
- › Dry swab (swab not sent in transport medium)
- › Specimens collected on mini-tip or nasopharyngeal swabs – not recommended.

Three test options are available for Group A Beta Strep testing:

- › Test# 5635 – Strep Throat Screen Only: Culture only done if screen is negative and the customer is <18 years old
- › Test# 5636 – Strep Throat Screen Reflex: Culture done if screen is negative, regardless of age.
- › Test# 1187 – Culture, Throat

Guidelines for ordering or when to follow up a negative rapid antigen screen result with a culture:

- › It is recommended to follow up negative rapid tests with a culture for children and adolescents, especially in the high prevalence age range of 5 – 15 years of age. Use test # 5636, Strep. Throat Screen Reflex
- › No follow up culture in adults. Use test # 5635, Strep. Throat Screen Only.
- › No testing for GAS in those less than 3 years of age except in special circumstances.
- › No testing for GAS in those with a high likelihood of viral pharyngitis.

Materials Needed:

- › BBL Culture Swab – Red Cap, which has two swabs.

Specimen Collection:

1. Remove swab from pak. For CultureSwab pak, open and discard plug.
2. Using swab(s), swab both tonsillar fauces and the posterior pharynx, reaching up behind the uvula and culturing any ulceration, exudate, lesion or area of inflammation.
3. Place both swab(s) into the transport tube.
4. Label device.
5. Rapid Strep Screen testing:
 - a. If you choose to perform a rapid strep screen on-site, use only one of the two swabs and then discard that swab.
 - b. If you are sending the sample for a rapid strep screen, send both swabs.
5. Send specimen to [North Memorial Health Laboratory](#).