



COVID-19 Surface Swab Kit Instructions

This procedure is designed to sample surfaces for potential target organisms from a non-biotic environment. Please carefully read the entire procedure and handle with care.

Background

Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stable for up to 9 days on ambient surfaces, and may be active up to 28 days on surfaces at refrigerated temperatures (4°C) depending on conditions such as humidity and surface type. The active virus is shed by infected people through nasal and oral as well as fecal shedding. Research has shown that people may acquire the virus via aerosols and after touching contaminated objects.

Applications for the Test Kit

The IEH COVID-19 Detection Kit can be used as an early warning system by swabbing surfaces in high-touch areas of facilities where people are working. It should also be used to validate cleaning and sanitation protocols for following all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection among employees. Potential uses include but are not limited to surface testing of all different types (all metals, plastics, rubber, laminate, wood, corrugate, porcelain, etc.).

- **Food Production & Distribution** – surfaces in high-touch areas including breakrooms, restrooms, door handles, keypads, timeclocks, shared equipment such as hand-held scanners, high-touch surfaces on production or packaging lines.
- **Retail and Foodservice** – high-touch areas such as door handles, shopping carts and baskets, counters, registers, hand-held scanners, payment keypads, restrooms and employee breakrooms.
- **Medical and Care Facilities** – waiting rooms, cafeterias, counters, nurse stations, keyboards, restrooms, doorknobs, service trays, wheelchairs, and areas and equipment that can be contaminated via aerosols (coughing and sneezing) including respiratory equipment, air intake vents, beds, chairs, tray tables, etc.
- **Educational & Recreational Facilities** – surfaces in high-touch areas such as desks, chairs, gym equipment, floor mats, locker rooms, restrooms, staff breakrooms, cafeterias.
- **Lodging & Hospitality** – Check-in counters, food service areas, conference rooms, lounges, business centers, service carts and trays, cleaning equipment, and high-touch areas such as doorknobs, elevators, keycards, restrooms, remote controls, bedside tables, headboards, luggage racks.
- **Offices** – commonly used areas and areas where infected persons have been including front desks, restrooms, breakrooms, conference rooms, shared equipment (printers, keyboards).

Kit Components:

The IEH Surface Swab Kit contains three components: Swab, sampling reagent and VT reagent. Each reagent has a different function and should be used in order.

Always wear gloves and facemask during sample collection to ensure accuracy of test results and to protect yourself. Always sanitize the area after sampling with an approved sanitizer.

Instructions for Use:

1. Open the sampling reagent container cap.
2. Put on sterile, non-powdered nitrile examination gloves over the base-layer gloves.
3. Remove the swab from the package.
4. Wet the swab with the sampling reagent. Blot the swab against the inside wall of the tube to get rid of the excess buffer.
5. Apply pressure with the wet swab onto the surface, move in at least two different directions while rotating the swab stick. Avoid letting the swab dry completely. **DO NOT REMOISTEN THE SWAB BY IMMERSING BACK INTO SAMPLING REAGENT.** Moisten it in VT reagent, if needed.
6. The recommended swab surface area is 25 cm² (3.9 square inches). To increase the positive predictive value of the environmental sampling process, each sampling area may require multiple swabs.
7. Open the cap of VT reagent tube (Labeled 'VT' on the top). Place swab in the tube by immersing. Aseptically cut the shaft and close the lid.
8. After labelling the vial, place it in the provided self-sealing bag and clean the outside of the sealed bag with a 60-80% ethanol, 80% isopropyl alcohol or 5% hypochlorite solution and dry prior to leaving the tested area.
9. Sanitize the surface area that was swabbed using a 60-70% alcohol or 0.1% bleach solution.
10. Place the cleaned sealed bag in another unused similar self-sealing bag (whirl-pak type).
11. Fill out the IEH Sample Submission Form. Email one copy to Test-Admin@iehinc.com in advance of the shipment and enclose a paper copy with the shipment box.
12. Ship the samples via overnight shipment to:

IEH Laboratories & Consulting Group
Attn: Lab Samples
15300 Bothell Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155
(206) 522-5432

If you have any questions, please contact IEH Laboratories & Consulting Group at info@iehinc.com or (206) 522-5432.