THROAT SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Specimen
Swab the mucosa behind the uvula and between the tonsillar pillars. No special patient preparation is needed.

Materials Needed
- Sterile tongue depressor
- Sterile Swab Transport System

Collection
1. Using a sterile tongue depressor to hold the tongue down, look at the back of the throat and the tonsillar area for localized areas of inflammation and exudate.
2. Insert the swab between the tonsillar pillars and behind the uvula. **DO NOT TOUCH THE TEETH, SIDES OF MOUTH, GUMS, or UVULA.**
3. Sweep the swab over the tonsillar and posterior pharynx areas to obtain an adequate sample. Any white exudate present in these areas should be touched. (Refer to Figure below). Success with the culture depends on firmly and completely sampling an area of the inflamed throat.
4. Replace swab into sleeve for transport.
5. Appropriately label and transport the specimen.

Specimen Labeling
Refer to the Specimen Collection Procedure for Labeling Specimens.