

## Supplies

- ▶ 1 sterile swab
- ▶ 1 molecular transport tube
- ▶ 1 specimen bag
- ▶ 1 UPS/FedEx Lab Pak mailer

To ensure safety and validity of the sample it is important to follow these instructions.

Collect affected nail(s) and paronychial soft tissue/debris samples using standard aseptic/sterile technique currently in use at your practice. For nail clippers utilized directly from an autoclave pouch, no sterile saline rinse is required prior to nail clipping.

For nail clippers which have been autoclaved, and then placed in a cold, sterile holding container, rinse clippers with sterile saline prior to clipping nails.

## Nail and Paronychial Specimen Collection

1. Don gloves. Clip the affected nail(s). Collect clippings on sterile gauze/paper (or equivalent).
2. Transfer nail(s) to provided molecular transport tube.
3. **(Preferred/Optional)** Using an appropriately sized sterile surgical blade, scrape affected subungual/periungual debris/tissue from the site directly into the molecular transport tube (or collect on sterile gauze/paper, and then transfer to transport tube). Collection of BOTH nail material and periungual material maximizes diagnostic yield and ensures that both pathogenic fungi and pathogenic bacteria are detected.
4. Securely tighten the tube top and ensure all material is submerged in transport fluid.
5. Keep the tube in an upright position for 10 – 15 minutes.

