

2019

Skin, Hair, and Nail Collection for Culture

South Shore
Regional Hospital



www.nshealth.ca

Skin, Hair, and Nail Collection for Culture

Instructions

- Your doctor has given you a form for this test. This form is called your **requisition**.
 - You will be given a kit to collect a sample(s).
 - Use only the collection kit given to you by your doctor, local lab, or blood collection clinic.
 - Keep the sample(s) at room temperature.
 - Bring the sample(s) to an approved drop-off site **as soon as you finish** the collection (see back cover for sites).
 - Samples that are not labelled correctly or do not have a complete requisition form will not be tested.
1. Clean the affected area with alcohol wipes (70% alcohol) and let it air dry.

2. Collect the sample on the heavy paper from the kit. See next section for the type of sample you're collecting.
3. Refold the paper so that the sample cannot fall out. **Do not use tape.**
4. Place the heavy paper in the envelope provided.
5. Seal the envelope and label it with your name, health card number, and date(s) and time(s) of collection.

Skin

- › Scrape the edge of the rash using a scalpel blade.
- › Collect the skin flakes on the heavy paper. Collect as many pieces as possible.


Hair

- › Use tweezers to pluck hair from the affected area. Put it on the heavy paper.
- › Scrape the skin around the hair using a scalpel blade. Add the the skin flakes to the heavy paper.

Nails

- › Use a scalpel blade to scrape away the top layer of the nail. Throw these pieces away.
- › Collect the next layer of the nail on the heavy paper. Do not collect a whole nail.

Each **requisition** must have:

- › Your **full name and date of birth**
 - › Your **health card number**
 - › Your **doctor's full name and address**
 - › **The names of all antibiotics you are taking**
 - › **The names of all countries outside of North America that you have visited (or emigrated from) in the past 12 months**
 - › **Date and time of collection**
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Take the sample to one of the following Nova Scotia Health Authority Laboratory Services locations:

South Shore Regional Hospital

Main Floor

90 Glen Allan Drive

Bridgewater NS B4V 2S6

Phone: 902-527-5261

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7-11 a.m.

Registration: Monday-Friday,

6:45-10:45 a.m.

Fisherman's Memorial Hospital

2nd Floor

14 High Street

Lunenburg NS BOJ 2C0

Phone: 902-634-8801

Hours (including Registration):

Monday-Friday, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Queen's General Hospital

1st Floor

175 School Street

Liverpool NS BOJ 1K0

Phone: 902-354-3436

Hours (including Registration):

Monday-Friday, 7:30-11:30 a.m.



North Queen's Health Centre

9698 Highway 8

Caledonia NS B0T 1B0

Phone: 902-682-2533

Hours (including Registration):

Wednesdays, 7:30-10:45 a.m.

Our Health Centre

3769 Hwy 3

Chester NS B0J 1J0

Phone: 902-275-2830

Hours (including Registration):

Tuesdays and Thursdays,

7:30-10:45 a.m.

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:

<http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources. For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:

Call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community:

Call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.

Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

www.nshealth.ca

*Prepared by: Pathology & Laboratory Medicine,
South Shore Regional Hospital*

Designed by: NSHA Library Services

The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only. The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

QY85-1995 © June 2019 Nova Scotia Health Authority

The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.