

SURFACE CONTAMINATION/CLEARANCE SAMPLING COVID-19 – GUIDANCE CRITERIA

The purpose of this guidance is to provide information regarding surface sampling procedures and best practices relative to identifying the presence of COVID-19 on various surfaces. Additionally, swab sampling should only be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of cleaning/disinfection measures taken or post-clearance analysis following decontamination. The laboratory results will only identify the presence of COVID-19 and will NOT determine viability. Results will indicate either POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.



Sampling Best Practice Procedures

Materials:

Surface swab (similar to a cotton swab) and disposable gloves (e.g. nitrile or neoprene)

Steps in order:

1. Wash hands thoroughly
2. Put on disposable gloves
3. Remove swab for collection tube and swab surface or surfaces in question with moderate pressure using “S” shaped strokes.
4. Return swab to collection tube, seal, and label properly
5. Remove/dispose of gloves and REPEAT steps 1-4 on other surfaces as needed
6. Complete chain of custody and return to laboratory
OVERNIGHT delivery

IMPORTANT:

Sampling strategy is a critical consideration. For example, if using one swab to sample multiple surfaces and laboratory results are POSITIVE, it will be unclear if all surfaces were contaminated or a specific surface. Therefore, collecting one sample per surface is best practice to more accurately characterize contamination and cleanliness. Consultation with a qualified professional is recommended such as a certified industrial hygienist (CIH) or infection control specialist when developing sampling protocol and strategy.

M3 Insurance Contact:

Paul Klein
Senior Risk Manager, CIH, CSP
paul.klein@m3ins.com 608-288-2843

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hayes Microbial Consulting
www.hayesmicrobial.com

Pricing

\$165 per sample. 72 hour turnaround upon receipt. No rush turn-around available.

Lab Contact:

Dan Thomason
Director of Sales
dan@hayesmicrobial.com
Phone: 804-562-3435

Eurofins EMLab P&K Laboratories

www.emlab.com

General Surface Test Pricing

\$150 per sample (2 day turnaround)
\$225 per sample (1 day turnaround)

COVID-19 Specific Surface Test Pricing

\$200 per sample (2 day turnaround)
\$300 per sample (1 day turnaround)