



City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

**San Francisco Department of Public Health  
Public Health Laboratory**

Godfred Masinde, PhD  
Laboratory Director

January 20, 2021

**Re: Newly-Validated Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit for Patient-Collected Rectal and Pharyngeal (Throat) Chlamydia & Gonorrhea TMA Samples to the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory**

Dear submitting clinics and facilities:

Beginning January 19, 2021, the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory will begin accepting **patient-collected rectal and pharyngeal (throat) swab samples for chlamydia and gonorrhea TMA testing (NAAT) using the Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit** (Hologic, Inc., Cat. No. PRD-03546). Prior to validating the Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit for these sample sources, only the Aptima® Unisex Swab Collection Kit (Hologic, Inc., Cat. No. 301041) was accepted for these sample types. The San Francisco Public Health Laboratory will continue to accept patient-collected rectal and pharyngeal swabs using the Aptima® Unisex Swab Collection Kit.

As a result of these changes, it is important to remind clinical staff to properly label all Multitest Swab samples with the sample source (e.g. “rectal,” “throat”), in order for the laboratory to accurately identify and link sample-source specific test orders with samples, including differentiating rectal and pharyngeal samples from vaginal swab samples.

Lastly, at this point in time, the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory has **not** validated the Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit for Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV) NAAT testing at our laboratory. Please continue to only collect these samples using the Aptima® Unisex Swab Collection Kit or universal (viral) transport medium.

Please see our website for our updated sample collection guidelines for all chlamydia/gonorrhea TMA sample sources:

<https://www.sfcdcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Chlamydia-Gonorrhea-TMA-SFDPH-FINAL-01.19.2021.pdf>



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We ask that you share this memorandum with any staff that may collect and submit these samples.

You can contact us for help or questions at 415-554-2800

The San Francisco Public Health Laboratory  
415-554-2800  
[www.sfcdep.org/PHL](http://www.sfcdep.org/PHL)