

Nottingham Children's Hospital  
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Nottingham  
NG72UH

**A SPUTUM SAMPLE IS ALWAYS BETTER  
THAN A COUGH SWAB**

Contact Numbers:  
Tel: 0115 9249924  
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ext 62501 Debra Forster  
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How to do a cough swab;

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
2. Open packet opposite end to visible swab (looks like cotton bud)
3. Remove swab without touching white bit
4. Ask your child to huff
5. Put swab in to your child's open mouth towards the back, but NOT touching throat.
6. Ask your child to cough
7. Remove top (black or white) from the tube by twisting and pulling and insert the swab fully (the swab end) into the tube. Screw it in.
8. Use enclosed label (if you live in Nottingham) and date. Otherwise complete the label on the tube as fully as possible. Place the tube in the enclosed microbiology form. Complete date and time.
9. Take to your GP surgery to send off, please.

If you do not live in Nottinghamshire the GP practice may complete a different form. Please show the staff the enclosed microbiology form for reference.

**10. Leave a message for one of the nurses stating you have sent in a cough swab or sputum**

For babies;

You may have to touch the back of the throat to encourage a cough (try not to make them gag or vomit, so do not do soon after a feed)!!

Please phone one of the nurses or physios for more tips on doing cough swabs with babies.