



## SURROGATE Bacterial Surface and Air Testing for Coronavirus

### Sampling Instructions

Surface area sampling may be performed to indicate the bacterial population of a particular area. Wipe samples are indicated when bacterial growth is suspect and when enumeration and identification of the bacteria may be relevant to a particular situation. The assessment of microorganisms may be useful in evaluating the hygienic status of a particular environment.

This test can be used to evaluate the existing microbial population of a surface area and also to evaluate the effectiveness of surface cleaning by using the bacterial bioburden and the categories of bacterial isolated (human respiratory/activity vs environmental) as an indicator for the potential of viral presence.

It reflects a clinical protocol using Blood Agar to recover respiratory organisms such as; alpha strep, gamma strep, gnr, S. aureus, etc., in addition to recovering environmental bacteria for a more complete picture of the bacterial population.

1. Make a template from plastic or sturdy cardboard or use the provided swab template card.
2. Sampling should be conducted using 3M™ Sponge-Sticks or sterile swabs (see product information).
3. For pre-cleaned areas or heavily contaminated surfaces take a 1x1 inch or a 1x2 inch sample. For a post-cleaned or clean environment take a 2x2 inch or up to a 4x4 inch area.
4. Remove the sterile swab obtained from Hawk Environmental from the plastic film and discard.
3. Remove the plastic plug from the top of the tube and insert the swabs to lightly moisten the swabs before sampling.
4. For sterile swabs take the slightly moistened swabs and sample the affected surface by rolling both swabs over the area, using the template as a guide. **OR** for the 3M™ Sponge-Sticks: Before removing the sponge sticks from the sterile bag, squeeze out the broth inside the bag so the sponge is not overly damp. Continue by following the sampling instructions listed above.
5. DOUBLE bag and label all samples appropriately, submit to the laboratory as soon as possible preferably within 24 hours of collecting the sample.

**Samples can ONLY be received at the laboratory, Monday through Friday. If samples cannot be shipped the same day as collected, refrigerate overnight and ship the next day for overnight delivery.**

**206-620-0311 info@hawkenvironmental.com**