



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Sharon P. Massingale, Ph.D., HCLD/CC (ABB) Director

August 28, 2026

Volume XXVI Issue 6

Acceptable Specimens for STI Testing at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) Mobile and Prattville Locations

- Cervix, cervical, and oral swabs will no longer be available specimen source options for CT/NG and TV testing because they are not approved specimen sources.
- "Endocervical" should be chosen for swab specimens taken inside the hollow passage running through the inside of the cervix.
- *Self/patient-collected swabs must be sent to the Prattville BCL and cannot be accepted from any location other than the Jefferson, Montgomery, Houston, & Tuscaloosa County Health Departments.
- Any specimens sent that do not comply with this guidance will be deemed unsatisfactory for testing starting Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Collection Kit	Sample Type	Testing Laboratory for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea		Testing Laboratory for Trichomonas	
		Prattville	Mobile	Prattville	Mobile
Aptima® Multitest Swab Collection Kit	Patient Collected Vaginal Swab*	✓		✓	
	Patient Collected Throat Swab*	✓			
	Patient Collected Rectal Swab*	✓			
	Clinician Collected Vaginal Swab	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Clinician Collected Throat Swab	✓	✓		
	Clinician Collected Rectal Swab	✓	✓		
Aptima® Unisex Swab Collection Kit	Clinician Collected Endocervical	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Clinician Collected Male Urethral Swab	✓	✓		
	Clinician Collected Throat Swab	✓	✓		
	Clinician Collected Rectal Swab	✓	✓		
Aptima® Urine Specimen Collection Kit	Female Urine	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Male Urine	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ = ADPH-BCL validated (or verified)

Contact the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Testing Division at 334-290-3210
or the Mobile Division Laboratory at 251-344-6049
for questions regarding this bulletin.

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories
204 Legends Court
Prattville, Alabama 36066

Mobile Division Laboratory
757 Museum Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36608