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EasiCollect™ Frequently Asked Questions

Is EasiCollect reusable?

No, it is a single use device

When do I take off the plastic film?

Take off the plastic film covering the FTA card before application to the FTA card but after taking the sample

What is the shelf life?

The shelf life of FTA is 3 years

How long do I swab for?

Swab each cheek for 15 seconds

How hard do I press on the back of the foam head when closing the device?

Press hard enough to catch the foam head under the front clip

How long do I leave the foam in contact with the FTA Card?

10 seconds

What if the sample area doesn't turn completely white?

This means there wasn't enough saliva collected on the swab; cells are still transferred

Where is the best place to take the punch from?

The best place is near the center of the sample area but tests have proven that cells are distributed evenly across the sample area

Can I leave the foam in contact with the FTA card while drying?

It is not recommended

Can the FTA card be dried while in the EasiCollect device?

Yes the FTA card can be left in EasiCollect to dry as long as the foam head is in the Resting Position, which is the stem is in the upper position of the stem snap clip where the foam is not touching the FTA card

What size FTA punch do I take?

It is recommended to take a 2.0mm punch for buccal cell samples

Do I need to wash the punch with FTA Purification Reagent?

Yes

How do I process a punch?

Using the normal FTA procedure; wash 3 x 5 min in 200µL FTA Purification then rinse 2 X 5 min in 200µL TE⁻¹ (10mM Tris-HCl, 0.1mM EDTA, pH 8), remove all traces of wash buffer and add PCR master mix to the washed punch.

Do I need to dry the punch before PCR?

It is not necessary but punches can be dried by incubating at 50°C for 10 min with the tube lid open