

# Swab Tip Compatability with PCR

Swab Tip	PCR Compatable	Comment
Dacron (spun)	Yes	
Rayon (spun)	Yes	
Flocked	Yes	
Polyester (spun)	Yes	
Polyurethane (foam tip)	Yes	Study: <a href="https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20053857">ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20053857</a>   <a href="https://jcm.asm.org/content/48/3/852">jcm.asm.org/content/48/3/852</a>
Cotton (spun)	No	Contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing
Calcium Alginate	No	Contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing

Shaft	PCR Compatable	Comment
Wood	No	Contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.
Plastic	Yes	

## CDC Guidelines\*

Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing. Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 mL of viral transport media.

\* [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html)