

# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING GUIDE



## SAMPLING PRECAUTIONS

- Store sponges in refrigerated (not frozen) conditions (2-8°C) before and after sampling.
- Ensure sponges/swabs are not expired, punctured or compromised.
- Lab testing should start within 36 hours of sampling.
- Wear gloves and handle aseptically-take care not to go past thumb stop on sponges. Return sponge/swab to container.



## SWAB

- Break off stick for sponges by holding the sponge on the outside of the bag and twisting sharply where the sponge meets the stick. Never cut or include pieces of stick in sample submitted.
- Submit one sponge/swab per pathogen (1 for Salmonella, 1 for Listeria, etc.)
- Submit one sponge/swab for all enumeration (APC, Yeast and Mold, etc.)
- Using sampling device, swab in back and forth motions in one direction, flip and repeat in opposite direction. Use enough pressure to obtain surface sample without shredding or destroying sampler.



## SANITIZE AND LABEL

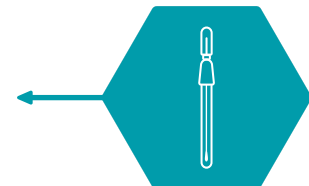
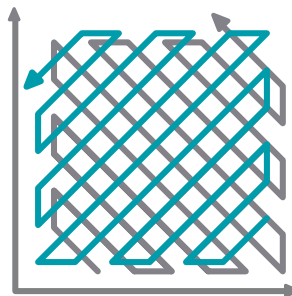
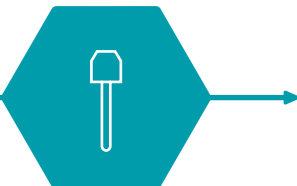
Once completed; sanitize the sampled area, close the sample bag by rolling down 2-3 times and label the sponge with indelible ink below the closure.



## COMPLETE FORM

Complete and include sample analysis form in a way to protect the paperwork from moisture or contact with the samples.

**SPONGE-STICK**  
Up to a 12" by 12"  
area recommended



**SWAB**  
Up to a 3" by 3"  
area recommended