

**BVD PCR Sample Collection Guidelines**

***For ear notch & nasal swab samples***

1. Materials and Equipment Needed for Ear Notch Collecting:
2. Ear notching tool that yields a 1cm a side notch: Recommend purchasing two or more tools.
3. Red Top blood tube: The preferred tube is a **VACUETTE® No Additive Tube:** 9ml.
4. Shipping container rack that holds individual tubes in slots.
5. Submission form: Use the “Serologic and Multiple Test Submission Form”. This form can be found on our web site: [www.wvdl.wisc.edu](http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu)
6. Disinfectant for rinsing notching tool: 10% bleach (eg.100ml (3oz) bleach in 900ml, (27oz) water).
7. Clean rinse water: 3-5 gallon bucket. Change bucket water every 20-30 notches.
8. Use disposable gloves and wear clean coveralls.
9. Do not vaccinate or tattoo at the same time samples are taken.
10. Collection Procedure:
11. Label Red Top collection tubes with the animal ID and sequence number (#1 through number in submission).
12. Dip notching tool in disinfectant then ALWAYS rinse away disinfectant with copious quantities of clean water. **Caution:** Residual disinfectant on the notching tool will yield false negative results, therefore thorough rinsing with clean water is required!!
13. Take a proper size ear notch from a clean portion of the ear (figure 5). For comparison, a triangle notch size is superimposed on a nickel (figure 6). Place notch into a labeled, dry, red top collection tube (no formalin, other liquid or separator gel; do not use snap-cap milk tubes or whirl-pac bags). **Caution:** Collected ear notch **MUST** be free of contaminating dirt, feces, tattoo ink or BVD vaccine.
14. Store collected ear notches for a maximum of 72 hours at refrigerator temperatures and ship over night to the WVDL on cold packs.

  

 **Figure 5:**  Best location for taking ear notch **Figure 6:** Required size of ear notch, ~1cm per side

1. Materials Needed for Nasal Swab Collecting:
	1. The following form and supplies can be found by visiting our website: <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/forms/>
		1. BVD PCR NASAL SWAB SUBMISSION FORM
		2. BVD NASAL SWAB KIT
			1. Polyester tip swab with Dacron shaft
			2. 96-array deep well plate
			3. Aluminum seal film
			4. Re-sealable plastic bag
2. Collection Procedure
	1. Using a single Dacron or polyester-tip nasal swab with a plastic applicator, (non-wood applicator) swab 2-3 inches inside one nostril with enough pressure to capture epithelial cells.
	2. Put the swab in the 96 deep-well plate.
	3. Snap off applicator stick so that the tip is below the top of the 96 deep-well plate and not protruding above the top of the array. If necessary, use scissors to cut applicator stick being careful not to touch the collection tip.
	4. Wipe down the scissors between cuts with dry, clean cloth.
	5. Do not add liquid to 96 deep-well plate.
	6. Cover with aluminum foil.
	7. Record the sample ID number on WVDL submission form in the corresponding well (an electronic spreadsheet can be used in addition to the WVDL submission form for ease of entry).
	8. Mark the 96 deep-well plate with the corresponding submission form page number.
	9. Place the 96 deep-well plate in a re-sealable bag provided and enclose the WVDL submission form in a separate bag.
	10. Ship the plate and form with cold packs overnight, not on Fridays.
	11. Refrigerate samples until packaging for up to one week. **Do not freeze.**
	12. If shipping from within Wisconsin, we recommend UPS Ground as a fast and inexpensive submission handler.
	13. A video of this collection procedure is located on our website at: <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/forms/>