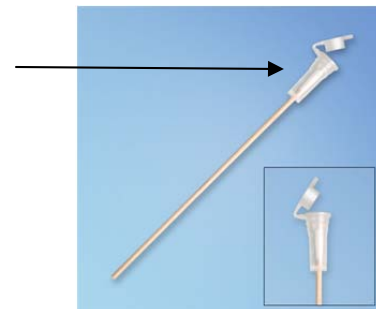# Taking DNA collections during Child ID events

This procedure allows for the collection of DNA during a public Child ID event. Proper collection, handling and storage are important in the use of the sample. Items necessary and provided for the sample include:

1.) One individually wrapped cotton swab with capture area/tip protector
2.) Clean vinyl gloves (because some people are allergic to latex)
3.) Clean paper envelope, white labels and pen
4.) Sanitizing wipes
5.) Face mask

Step 1: Use sanitizing wipes to clean the area that you will be working at the start of the event and periodically during the event.

Step 2: If you are the individual taking the child's sample we recommend that you wear a face mask so that your body fluids will not contaminate the samples taken. (i.e., talking, sneezing or coughing) It is also important that you do not touch anything but the sterile swab, this includes your own nose, mouth, and face when collecting and packaging the sample.

Step 3: Put on your rubber, vinyl or latex gloves. (Remember some people are highly allergic to latex so we recommend vinyl or rubber)

Step 4: Unwrap the swab stick from the sterile packaging and open the capture area/tip protector, touching ONLY the stick/wand area.

Step 5: Have the person you are obtaining the DNA sample open their mouth wide enough that you can insert the cotton swab, rubbing the cotton swab up and down inside of their check area – at least 5 strokes up and down.

Step 6: Once complete, take the swab stick out of the child's mouth and close the tip protector.

Step 7: Take a clean white envelope and place the swab inside of it. Close the envelope and seal using a white label that has been preprinted with the child's name. Do not LICK the envelope – this will contaminate the collection.

Step 8: Instruct the parents to place the collection in an area that is dry, at room temperature and accessible in case of emergency. A properly preserved collection can be stored for years. Direct sunlight, heat and humidity harm DNA and degrade the sample. Never open the envelope or break the seal as this disturbed the integrity of the sample.

Step 9: Remove your gloves – begin again at Step 1.

For additional information and better understanding regarding DNA, please view this forensic training – and receive AZPOST credit as well at: http://www.untchi.org/onlinetraining/CODISCourse.html