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# Protocol

## Collection of oral fluids



Canadian Swine  
Health Board  
Conseil canadien  
de la santé porcine

The Quebec Hog Industry Biosecurity and Health Stabilization Program is a Canadian Swine Health Board pilot initiative. Financing is made possible by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

www.swinehealth.ca

Revised : November 2010

**Materials required :**

- 100% cotton cord
- Polypropylene cord (baler cord)
- Ziploc bags (one per sample)
- Clean knife or scissors
- Sample tube(s) (Vacutainer)
- Pencil marker
- Hooks, if needed



(1) Attach the cotton cord (36 inches long) to the polypropylene cord. The knot must be tight enough so that the cotton cord does not slide out and fall on the floor.



(2) Attach the polypropylene cord to a solid support on the ceiling; a support screwed to a wooden beam is sufficient. If there is no such support, screw a hook into the beam. **The cord must be installed as far away as possible from sources of food and water.**



(3) Adjust the height of the cotton cord at **shoulder height** of the animals. The cord **must not touch the floor.**



(4) Let the animals **chew on the cord for about 20 to 30 minutes** (longer for smaller pigs). **Do not let the animals destroy the cord!**



(5) Use **clean gloves** to hold the cord containing the saliva. If there is more than one sample to be collected, **change gloves between samples.**



(6) Place the **wet portion** of the cord in a clean Ziploc bag and **press the cord to force out the liquid soaked in it.**

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(7) Cut a corner off the bag with clean scissors or a clean knife.



(8) Pour the liquid into a sample tube.



(9) **Correctly identify the tube.**



(10) Place the tube in a clean Ziploc bag and **refrigerate** as quickly as possible. Contact your veterinarian to send the samples to the laboratory.