

# Frequently Asked Questions



## What are the advantages of McMaster Molecular Medium™ (MMM)?

MMM makes sample handling and processing faster and safer. By inactivating organisms while stabilising nucleic acids, MMM eliminates the risks of transporting potentially infectious samples; allows samples to be shipped at ambient temperatures; and enables the extraction-ready liquid to be sampled direct from the tube and processed outside of controlled containment, which eases and speeds lab workflows reducing time to diagnostic result.

## Does MMM keep organisms in a viable state?

No – MMM is a molecular transport medium (MTM) that inactivates the organisms in a sample and stabilizes their genetic material – the DNA and RNA. It does not require aliquoting or heat inactivation.

## What swabs can be used with MMM?

MMM has been tested with flocked swabs of man-made materials. The sample swab should be inserted in the MMM vial, snapped at the breakpoint and sealed into the MMM vial.

## How should samples be processed for RNA/DNA extraction?

Once samples have been in MMM for 10 minutes they are extraction-ready for the procedure specified by the extraction kit chosen by the user (note that experiments show that cells are lysed almost immediately once the sample is added to MMM (so ready for extraction), however, we wait 10 minutes to be on the conservative side).

## Do I need to conduct nucleic acid extraction before my PCR assay?

Yes, you should conduct a nucleic acid extraction before RT-PCR.

## What platforms have been validated for use with MMM?

MMM has been used successfully with multiple common methods of extraction (including easyMAG® and EMAG® from bioMérieux, Promega and BD MAX™ System). Users should always validate their chosen extraction and purification systems. MMM should not be used with systems that include bleach as a decontamination method.

## How long can I keep my sample in MMM?

MMM tubes should be kept tightly sealed and stored between 15 to 25°C. Once collected, RNA is stable for up to 60 days at room temperature.

## How do I dispose of samples in MMM?

Samples collected in MMM should handle all waste by following their own waste disposal protocols.

