

## **Patient Information: Strep A Rapid Test**

### **What test are we doing today?**

You are receiving a point-of-care rapid test for Strep A. This test helps us check quickly for the bacteria that can cause strep throat.

### **What You Need to Know**

- The rapid test gives results within 5 minutes.
- It is a screening test, which means it helps guide care quickly but is not as sensitive as a full laboratory test, throat culture which takes 24-48hours for results and is often done if a rapid test is negative
- Sometimes, even if the rapid test is negative, a throat culture may still be done with your primary provider.

### **Why a Throat Culture May Be Needed**

- Your rapid test is negative and your symptoms strongly suggest strep throat.
- Your provider wants to confirm the rapid test result.
- Symptoms continue or worsen.

### **Disclaimer**

We are performing a point-of-care rapid test for Strep A. This test provides quick results, but it is not as sensitive as a laboratory throat culture. A throat culture may still be completed with your primary provider when necessary to confirm the results or if symptoms persist despite a negative rapid test.