



# Forensic & Technical Services Section

## Crime Gun Protocol for DNA Processing of Firearms

### SWABBING FIREARMS FOR DNA EVIDENCE

- Appropriate PPE (mask, gloves, lab coat) must always be worn during processing.
- To minimize the chance of contamination, change gloves often. New gloves must be worn for each firearm. During processing, change gloves if anything other than the firearm is handled.
- Any trace evidence (hairs / fibers) will be collected. Any suspected bloodstains observed will be collected with a sterile swab moistened with sterile water.
- Other potential DNA evidence (e-cells) will be collected from firearms utilizing the double swabbing method: one wet sterile swab moistened with sterile water followed by one dry sterile swab. Ensure all areas, especially recessed surface areas, are vigorously swabbed.

### COLLECTION PROCEDURE

- **Standard Semi-Automatic Handgun**

1. **Swab #1** – trigger and trigger guard.
2. **Swab #2** – grip (front strap, sides and back strap).
3. **Swab #3** – slide grooves, slide release, hammer, safety and front sight.

- **Standard Revolver Handgun**

1. **Swab #1** – trigger and trigger guard.
2. **Swab #2** – grip (front strap, sides and back strap).
3. **Swab #3** – cylinder release, hammer and front sight.

- **Standard Long Arm (Rifle / Shotgun)**

1. **Swab #1** – trigger, trigger guard and bolt / charging handle.
2. **Swab #2** – complete stock area and grip.
3. **Swab #3** – fore-end, carrying handle and buttons (slide release, magazine release, safety, hammer).

- **Magazines** (each magazine to be processed separately)

1. **Swab #1** – the top and edges of the magazine (not the magazine base)

**\*Note:** - The procedures listed above are to be used as a guide and not every firearm will have all the above listed parts.