

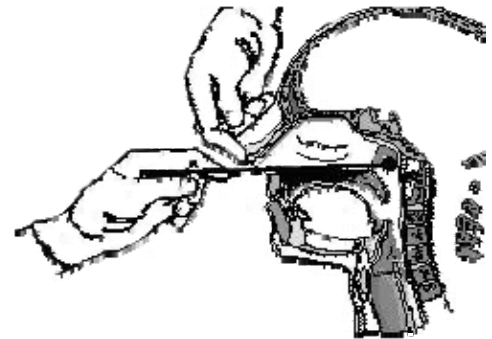
New Mexico Department of Health - Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD)
***Bordetella pertussis* (Whooping cough) Specimen Collection Procedure for PCR Testing**
UPDATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Kit includes: This instruction sheet, SLD's General Clinical Request Form, rayon swab in plastic tube for real-time PCR, plastic bag.

Wear a mask while collecting specimen.

A. Obtain a nasopharyngeal specimen as follows:

- Immobilize the patient's head.
- Gently insert a thin-wire Rayon swab into a nostril until the posterior nares is reached.
- Leave the swab in place for up to 10 seconds. This procedure may induce coughing and tearing.
- Remove and repeat procedure on the opposite nostril. It is important to try to obtain sample from both nostrils, as in some instances one nostril may be negative whereas the other is positive for pertussis.
- If resistance is encountered during insertion of the swab, remove it and attempt insertion on the opposite nostril.
- Remove the swab slowly.



- **Immediately** replace the swab back into the plastic tube.
- Label the swab's plastic tube with the patient's name and DOB. A preprinted label would be preferable.

B. Completely fill out SLD's General Clinical Request Form with:

- Submitter name and address,
- Patient name,
- Sex,
- DOB,
- Clinician name and phone number,
- Date/time collected,
- Indicate specimen source (Nasopharyngeal swab),
- Indicate test request (Pertussis, (*Bordetella* spp.)

C. Place the properly labeled 1) plastic tube with inoculated swab and 2) completed General Clinical Request Form into the plastic bag provided. Send immediately to SLD.

- If there will be a delay in transport, of more than two hours, place the bag in the **freezer**.
- When ready to transport, please send to SLD **on ice** pack.

D. Rejections

- Samples not received on ice will be rejected.
- Please note that the PCR is able to detect and evaluate specimen quality. This was not possible with culture. SLD will reject specimens where the swab is insufficiently inoculated. Please ensure that your staff follows the instructions described above.
- SLD will also reject swabs that are of different materials than those provided with this pertussis collection kit and those not in a dry plastic tube.