

STATE OF IDAHO BUREAU OF LABORATORIES  
2220 OLD PENITENTIARY ROAD  
BOISE, IDAHO 83712-8299  
(208) 334-2235

***Bordetella pertussis* Collection Materials and Procedures**

**MATERIALS**

1. Pertussis Requisition
2. One synthetic-tipped swab (polyester, rayon, or Dacron®) with aluminum shaft
3. 15 ml sterile conical screw-cap tube (Corning, Falcon)

To order supplies, use the on-line Supply Request Form at [www.statelab.idaho.gov](http://www.statelab.idaho.gov), or call Storekeeper at 208.334.2235, ext 226.

**PROCEDURES**

1. Complete Pertussis Requisition.
2. Collect nasopharyngeal sample using swab, taking care not to contaminate the specimen (see diagram and instructions on back).

**POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR)**

3. Place swab in sterile transport tube. Refrigerate until shipment.

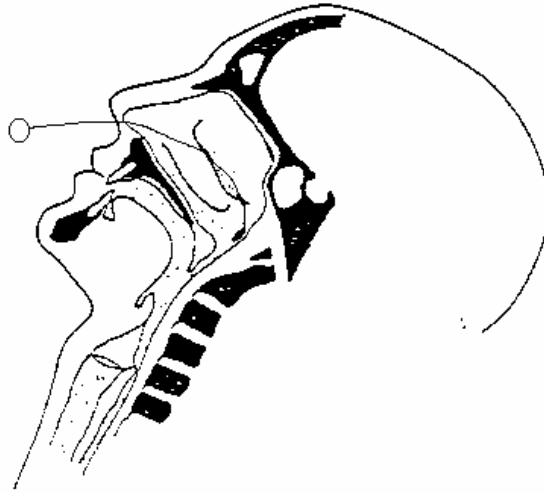
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**\*\*\*If you wish to submit a sample for culture, send a second swab in Regan-Lowe or similar transport medium (IBL no longer supplies transport media for *B. pertussis* culture).**

**CULTURE PREPARATION**

4. After sampling, push the tip of the swab into the semi-solid Regan-Lowe transport medium. Completely immerse the tip of the swab into the transport medium. If the handle of the swab projects above the tube, it should be cut off or rolled in a manner that will allow the tube to be closed completely, so that the specimen will not leak during shipment. (All instruments used in cutting should be sterile to prevent cross-contamination).
  - a. If receipt will be  $\leq 3$  days from collection, ship at ambient temperature.
  - b. If receipt will be  $> 3$  days from collection, incubate Regan-Lowe transport for 2 days at 35°C, then ship on ice pack.

For questions, contact IBL Microbiology at 208.334.2235 ext. 257 or 295.



### **COLLECTION OF NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS**

1. Immobilize the patient's head.
2. Gently insert nasopharyngeal swab into a nostril until the posterior nares is reached.
3. Leave the swab in place for up to 10 seconds. This procedure may induce coughing and tears. If resistance is encountered during insertion of the swab, remove it and attempt insertion on the opposite nostril.
4. Remove the swab slowly.
5. Follow the appropriate collection instructions on the front of the sheet and place all waste materials in an appropriate biohazard container.
6. Appropriate precautions should be taken not to cause cross-contamination of specimens (i.e. changing of gloves, decontamination of instruments using bleach, and discarding of any previously used materials).

**Guidelines for the Control of Pertussis Outbreaks, National Immunization Program,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**