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**BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS CULTURE AND PCR SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND
TRANSPORT KIT**

Store collection kit at refrigerator temperature (2-8°C).

Do not allow the medium to freeze at any time.

Two separate tests are offered by the PHL for best detection of *B. pertussis*. Culture and PCR each have different collection requirements. Please read, and follow the instructions carefully.

Kit components for culture:

- 1 calcium alginate wire shaft swab
- 1 tube of Regan-Lowe Transport Medium

Kit components for PCR:

- 1 plastic capped tube
- 1 polyester (DACRON) wire shaft swabs

Basic kit components:

- Instruction sheet
- Laboratory test requisition
- Medium double Mailer

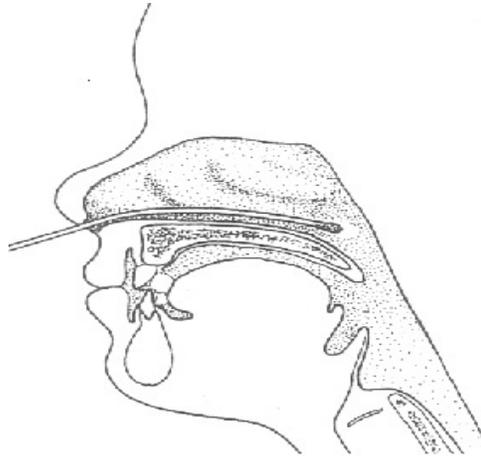
Procedure for collection:

1. Remove the contents of the kit from the refrigerator. Verify that the Regan-Lowe transport tube has not expired. Specimens received in expired media must be rejected. Allow the media to warm to room temperature (at least 15 minutes) before collecting specimen.
2. Label the clear plastic tube and Regan-Lowe medium with patient name, and the date of collection.
3. Fill out the requisition form completely and legibly.
4. *For collection of specimen for culture:*

With the patient's neck in an extended position, gently insert a sterile calcium alginate swab into the right nostril. Pass the swab along the floor of the nose until it contacts the posterior nasopharyngeal wall and gently rotate for 5 seconds to absorb

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secretions. Remove the swab and place it in the Regan-Lowe tube immersing the swab tip completely in the medium. Cap the tube.



5. *For collection of specimen for PCR:*

Repeat step 4 using a polyester swab in the Left nostril. Remove the swab and place it into the plastic tube. Cap the tube.

6. Place plastic tube and the Regan-Lowe tube with swabs into the cylindrical aluminum inner liner and cap the liner. Wrap the completed requisition around the outside of the inner liner and place it inside the mailing container. Cap the mailing container.
7. To expedite diagnosis, transport to the laboratory promptly. The sample must reach the PHL within 3 days of collection for effective *B. pertussis* detection.
8. If the specimen must be held prior to shipment, the specimen should be stored as follows:
 - a) Refrigerate PCR tube with swab until shipment.
 - b) If transport will be within 24 hours of collection, store Regan-Lowe at room temperature (20-25° C) until shipment.
 - c) If transport will be within 48-72 hours of collection, incubate Regan-Lowe only, at 34-37° C until shipment. If an incubator is not available, refrigerate at 2-8° C until shipment.

If you have any questions, please call the Public Health Laboratories at 603-271-4663.

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