

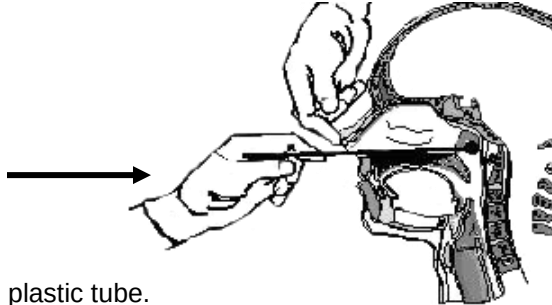
**New Mexico Department of Health - Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD)**  
***Bordetella pertussis* (Whooping cough) Specimen Collection Procedure for PCR Testing**  
**UPDATED SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

Kit includes: This instruction sheet, SLD's General Clinical Request Form, Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in plastic tube for real-time PCR, plastic bag. This kit may be kept at room temperature as there are no temperature requirements for the uninoculated swab.

Wear a mask while collecting specimen.

**A. Obtain a nasopharyngeal specimen as follows:**

- Immobilize the patient's head.
- Gently insert a single thin Rayon/Nylon NP swab into a nostril until the posterior nasopharynx are 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 with the same swab. It is important to try to obtain sample from both nostrils using the single swab, as in some instances one nostril may be negative whereas the other is positive for pertussis. If you send two swabs, SLD will consider them as separate samples and charge twice.
- 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,
- Gender,
- 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.**

- The inoculated swab can be refrigerated, but if there will be a delay in transport of more than two hours, please place the bag in the **freezer**
- When ready to transport, please send to SLD **on an ice pack**.

**D. Rejections**

- Samples not received on an ice pack will be rejected.
- SLD will only accept swabs that are Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs made of synthetic materials and in dry sterile plastic containers. Swabs made of calcium alginate or cotton are not acceptable. Swabs in paper sleeves will also be rejected. See pictures above for two appropriate types of NP swabs.
- SLD will reject swabs collected as Nasal swabs (collected only towards the front), as opposed to Nasopharyngeal swabs, due to the increased chance of obtaining a false negative from a nasal swab.
- Please note that the PCR is able to detect and evaluate specimen quality. SLD will not provide results (Inconclusive) where the swab is insufficiently inoculated. Please ensure that your staff follows the instructions described above.

**E. Kits**

- The kit can be ordered as usual through SLD's Specimen Receiving section by faxing Specimen Receiving at 505-383-9062 (ATTN: Kit Prep on the fax sheet).
- Questions on *Bordetella* testing can be directed to the Molecular Biology Section – 505-383-9130/9132