

## Bordetella Culture/PCR/ Instructions Mailer

### **Kit Contents:**

1 insulated mailing container with cold packs. **Refreeze cold packs.**  
1 large plastic conical tube containing: 1 vial Regan-Lowe Transport Medium (RLTM), 1 (2ml) DNase-free microcentrifuge tube, 1 ziplock bag containing: 2 nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs [Dacron tip], and 1 return mailing label.

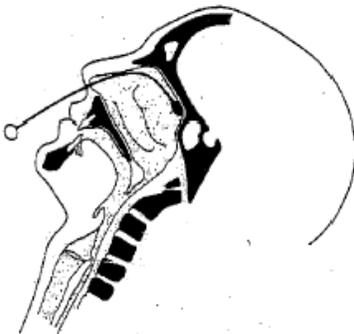
Please printout DHHS form 4121 (Special Bacteriology) from our website:  
<http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/forms.asp#specimen> and fill out completely.

**Warning!!! (Please Keep COLD) Refrigerate Immediately upon Receiving DO NOT FREEZE MEDIA!!**  
**Reagents are stable for up to 2 months refrigerated, all vials are labeled with an expiration date.**

**\*\*Do NOT substitute swabs from other kits since they may contain Calcium Alginate swabs that may inhibit PCR.**  
**\*\*\*This Kit contains Dacron tipped swabs for culture and PCR testing.\*\*\* (Rayon and nylon-flocked tips are also acceptable.)**

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Label all materials.** Label RLTM vial and 2 ml microcentrifuge tube with with two patient identifiers using a pencil or waterproof marker. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT PAPER LABELS ON THE MICROCENTRIFUGE TUBES.** Complete the DHHS form **DHHS-4121** for PCR and culture with all requested information, including Medicaid number if applicable. On the reverse side of the form **list any symptoms, date of onset, contact with other pertussis cases, immunization history, and antimicrobial therapy prior to specimen collection.**



2. **Collect 2 NP swabs** (See 2a, 2b). Immobilize patient's head and gently pass one swab into the nostril and up into the nasopharynx. Do not force swab into passageway, because patient may have a deviated septum or a large turbinate; if necessary try the other nostril. Swab may remain in the nasopharynx up to 30 seconds or until a coughing paroxysm is induced. Repeat the process using a fresh swab.

2a. **Swab for Culture:** Inoculate transport medium by immersing one swab into cold **RLTM**. Cut off swab wire, tighten the vial lid, and secure with tape. Place RLTM back into large conical tube. **Refrigerate immediately after inoculation.** Inoculated RLTM may be held

refrigerated up to 48 hours before shipment.

\* **Inoculation of RLTM immediately following specimen collection is recommended, but for unavoidable delays, be sure to hold swabs refrigerated for up to 2 hours.\***

2b. **Swab for PCR:** Insert inoculated swab into empty 2 ml microcentrifuge tube, cut off swab wire, snap cap on, and place microcentrifuge tube into large centrifuge tube with RLTM. **Refrigerate.**

3. **Return specimen to State Laboratory:** Seal identification form in ziplock bag. Place large conical tube labeled with two patient identifiers containing **cold** inoculated vial of RLTM and the microcentrifuge tube along with the identification forms into the mailing container with frozen cold packs. Write **BORDETELLA CULTURE** on the return label and affix it to the outside of the mailing container.

**PLEASE indicate your return address.**

**Ship container as quickly as possible.**

Positive PCR and culture reports are telephoned upon confirmation and are followed by a printed report (NOTE: Reports are accessible on our website: <https://slphreporting.ncpublichealth.com/lims/ClinicalLims/Login.aspx> . Cultures are held 7 days after receipt.

For further information, please contact the Special Bacteriology Laboratory, Microbiology Branch, at (919) 733-7367

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health  
Microbiology: rev 6/2014 C. Hartley