

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.

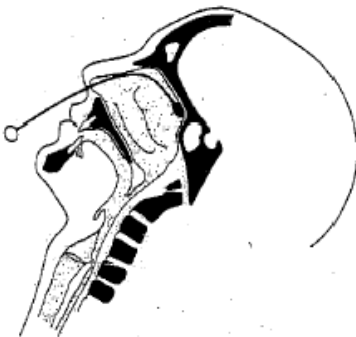
Please printout DHHS form 4121 (Special Bacteriology) from our website:
<http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/forms.asp#specimen> and fill out completely.

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

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Microbiology: rev 6/2014 C. Hartley