



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6503
603-271-4661 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4661
Fax: 603-271-2138 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

Lisa Morris
Director

BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS CULTURE AND PCR SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT

Important Information:

1. Store collection kit between 2-8°C
2. Do not allow the medium to freeze at any time.
3. Two separate tests, culture and PCR, are offered by the PHL for best detection of *B. pertussis*. Culture and PCR Kits each have different collection requirements.

Basic kit components:

Instruction sheet
Laboratory test requisition
Cardboard mailing container

Kit components for culture:

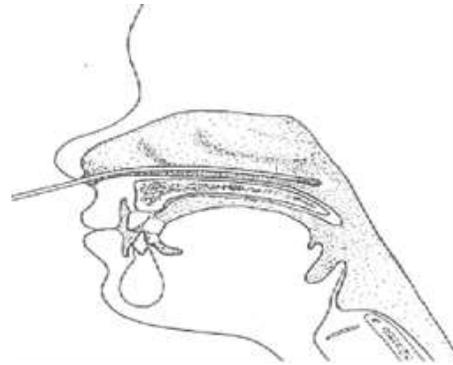
1 calcium alginate wire shaft swab
1 tube of Regan-Lowe Transport Medium

Kit components for PCR:

1 plastic capped tube
1 polyester (DACRON) wire shaft swab

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 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:*
 - a) 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 transporting within 24 hours of collection, store Regan-Lowe at room temperature (20-25° C) until shipment.
 - c) If transporting 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.



**For kit orders, please call the Public Health Laboratories at:
603-271-4605 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4605**

For technical questions, please call the Clinical Microbiology Unit at 603-271-4661