

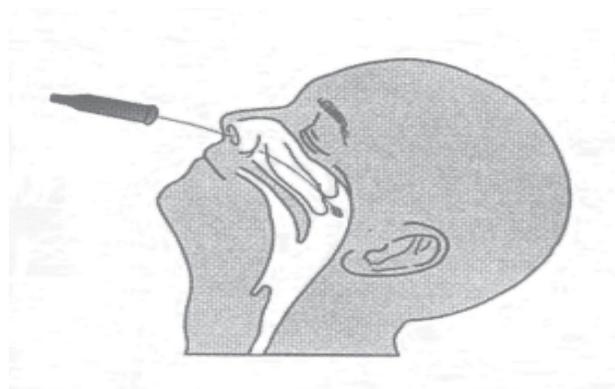
Pertussis (*Bordetella pertussis*)

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory provides complete kits for the collection and submission of nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs for *Bordetella pertussis* culture and PCR Testing.

Specimen Collection

The specimen of choice is a **nasopharyngeal** specimen.

1. Collect as soon as possible after symptoms develop. Specimens may be collected up to four weeks after onset as long as antibiotics have not been started.
2. Use a Dacron tip swab on a flexible wire shaft to collect a nasopharyngeal specimen.
 - a. Bend the wire so that it mimics the curve of the nasal airway.
 - b. Gently guide the swab until it contacts the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. Rotate swab for a few seconds and gently remove.
 - c. Place swab into the Regan-Lowe transport tube, cut protruding wire and cap tube.
 - d. Collect a second N/P swab, and place in tube labeled for PCR testing and cap tube.
 - e. Label tubes with patient's name and date of collection.
 - f. If able to collect only one swab, use the Regan-Lowe transport media and submit specimen for culture only.



3. Throat specimens, nasal swabs, sputum samples and non-Dacron swabs are unacceptable specimens and will not be tested.

Notes:

1. In some instances, it may not be practical or feasible to process or ship specimens as described above. Please call the OSPHL at 503-693-4100 for assistance in these situations.
2. Kits are assembled to contain Dacron polyester swabs. In the event that additional swabs are needed, avoid using calcium alginate swabs as these are contraindicated for PCR testing.

Shipping/Transport

1. If swabs are to be transported to the OSPHL on the day of collection, refrigerate tubes immediately after collection and transport on wet ice.
2. If transport will be delayed, refrigerate tubes for up to three days (swabs collected on Friday for shipment on Monday) and then transport on wet ice.

3. All sections of the laboratory requisition form must be completed. Type or print legibly.
4. NP specimens submitted in Regan-Lowe transport media are considered "Category B specimens" and must be packaged and shipped according to current federal regulations governing this type of sample. For additional shipping information click on <http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/SubmittingSamples/Pages/ShippingTransport.aspx>
5. Questions about collection, packaging and/or shipping of specimens for *B. pertussis* culture should be addressed to the General Microbiology section of the OSPHL, 503-693-4100.

Reports

- Specimens are processed Monday through Friday.
- Positive reports are phoned in after completion of testing.
- Negative reports may be called on request.
- Written reports are mailed as soon as possible after completion of testing.
- Negative cultures require twelve days of incubation before reporting as "No Growth of *B. pertussis*."

References

1. American Society for Microbiology. Manual of Clinical Microbiology. 7th Edition.
2. Oregon State Health Division. Oregon Communicable Disease Summary. Volume 30, No. 40, 1981.