

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

PERTUSSIS TESTING

These laboratory specimen collection instructions provide guidance on how to properly collect nasopharyngeal specimens for testing and how to ensure safe transport to the laboratory. It is absolutely critical that specimens be collected accurately, labeled properly, stored appropriately, and submitted with a complete laboratory test request submission form.

The natural habitat of *Bordetella pertussis* is the ciliated epithelial cells of the respiratory tract. Recovery of these organisms is highest during the first three weeks of infection if the specimen is collected properly. However, the percentage of positive cultures steadily declines with time. Antibiotic treatment affects the rate of isolation even during the acute phase of infection. *B. pertussis* is difficult to isolate after 48 hours of antibiotic administration.

KIT CONTENTS

(one of each)

- Copan ESwab Collection device (one pack contains flexible minitip swab and one tube containing 1mL of Amies liquid)
- Disposable mask
- Microbiology Laboratory Specimen Submission Form
- Zippered plastic bag with absorbent
- Shipping container

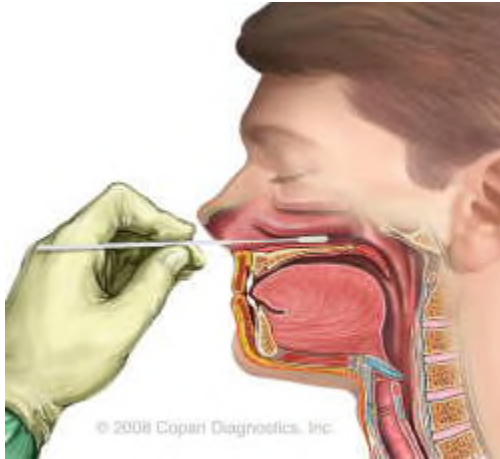
COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Check the expiration date of the Amies liquid to ensure valid date. Do not use media that has expired.
2. Label the tube with the patient's name or other unique identifier. The name or identifier on the tube must exactly match the name or identifier on the submission form.
3. Don clean gloves and the disposable mask and open the ESwab sample collection pouch. Remove the tube and swab.

NOTE: Only use the swab provided in the kit. Do not touch the swab below the breakpoint or contamination could occur.

4. Collect the specimen by immobilizing the patient's head and gently passing the swab through the nostril into the nasopharynx (see Figure 1 below). Before removing the swab, gently rotate and leave in place for fifteen (15) seconds.

Figure 1.



5. Aseptically unscrew and remove the cap from the tube.
6. Insert the swab into the tube and break the swab shaft at the breakpoint indicated by the colored line marked on the swab shaft. Discard the broken handle part of the swab shaft into an approved medical waste disposal container.
7. Replace cap on the tube and secure tightly.
8. Place labeled tube into the zippered plastic bag included in the kit and place bag into shipping container. Place the completed submission form in the outside pouch of the biohazard bag so that it does not come into contact with specimens. Apply postage and send via courier of your choice.

Due to the difficulty in culturing *Bordetella pertussis* under ideal conditions, we recommend that specimens be transported to OLS **within 24 hours** of collection. If the specimen(s) cannot be sent to OLS within 24 hours of collection, it is suggested to hold the collection tube at 2°C to 8°C (refrigeration) until able to ship. Do not freeze!

PACKING AND SHIPPING

Packages must be labeled according to current Department of Transportation (DOT) or International Air Transportation Association (IATA) instructions. All specimens must be shipped as Category B Biological Substances (UN3373). Refer to the OLS website for complete instructions (www.dhhr.wv.gov/ols).