

COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Bordetella pertussis (Whooping Cough)

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 and inoculated properly. Antibiotic treatment affects the rate of isolation even during the acute stage of infection. These organisms are difficult to isolate after 48 hours of antibiotic administration.

KIT CONTENTS

Sterile Dacron polyester swab (2)
Regan-Lowe semi-solid transport media
Disposable mask
Microbiology Laboratory Specimen Submission Form
Mailing sleeve and Styrofoam mailer

NOTE: Store media in refrigerator and bring to room temperature just before use.

METHOD OF COLLECTION

1. Check the expiration date of the Regan-Lowe transport media. Do not use media that has expired.
2. Label the Regan-Lowe transport tube with the patient's name or a unique identifier. The name or identifier must exactly match the name or identifier on the Test Submission Form.
3. Using the provided swab, collect the specimen by immobilizing the patient's head and gently passing the swab through the nostril into the nasopharynx (see figure below).

NOTE: Do not use cotton or calcium alginate swabs.

4. Before removing the swab, gently rotate and leave in place for fifteen (15) seconds.



5. Carefully stab the swab into the tube containing the Regan-Lowe semi-solid transport media. Cut off the excess shaft with a pair of scissors and tightly seal the cap.
6. Place tube into Styrofoam mailer and place mailer in sleeve. Apply postage and send via courier of your choice.

Packages should be shipped according to current regulations. Visit our website for additional information on packaging and shipping.

www.wvdhhr.org/labservices

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

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