

Pertussis Testing Collection and Shipping Instructions

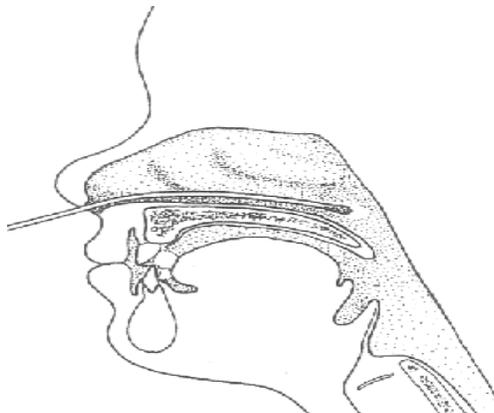
Specimen Collection Supplies

1. eSwab™ Collection kit – Store at room temperature until use and monitor expiration dates
 - a. Screw-capped tube with 1 ml of liquid Amies medium
 - b. One flexible minitip flocculated swab
2. Cold Pack
3. Specimen submission form with clear plastic bag

Specimen Collection Instructions

Collect one nasopharyngeal (NP) swab per patient for PCR and culture testing. Nasopharyngeal washes are also acceptable for culture and PCR. Collect in a sterile container and secure the lid.

1. Fill out the Specimen submission form for each patient
2. Open the eSwab™ swab collection pouch and remove the tube and swab. Pictorial directions are on the back of the pouch.
3. Pass the NP swab through the nares. (see diagram below)
4. Resistance will be met and this will confirm contact with the nasopharynx.
5. Rub the swab tip several times across the mucosal surface. This will loosen and collect cellular material. Allow a time of contact of up to 30 seconds then withdraw the swab
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 swab shaft
7. Replace the cap on the tube and secure tightly.



Specimen Packaging Instructions

1. Label the container with patient's name and the collection date.
2. This information **must** appear on **BOTH** the specimen and the specimen submission form or testing will **NOT** be performed.
3. Place the transport tube in one of the inner compartment of the biohazard bag. One tube per compartment.
4. Seal the bag and refrigerate specimen at 2-8° C until shipping.
5. Place the biohazard bag containing the specimen into the foam box.
6. Add the **FROZEN** cold pack and close the foam box.
7. Place foam box into the cardboard mailer.

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8. Put the completed specimen submission form in the clear plastic bag.
9. Seal the bag and place it between the form box and cardboard mailer.
10. Close the outer mailer and seal it with tape.

Specimen Submission Form Completion

1. Patient Name (Last, First, Middle)
2. Address
3. City, including Zip Code
4. County
5. Date of Birth
6. Sex
7. Date of Onset
8. Specific agent suspected
9. Source of Specimen: **NP Swab** (or appropriate description)
10. Date Collected
11. Laboratory examination requested: **Pertussis PCR and culture**
12. Submitter name, address, and phone number
13. Enter the following information and FI outbreak number if applicable

Shipping Instructions

1. **Ship the specimen as soon as possible after collection (within 48 hours).**
2. **Refrigerate specimens if they will not be shipped immediately.**
3. **Specimen MUST be kept cold until it reaches the laboratory.**

For questions: Contact Lisa Dettinger at ldettinger@pa.gov or 484-870-6416