



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DONALD E. WILLIAMSON, M.D. • STATE HEALTH OFFICER

BUREAU OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES
Sharon P. Massingale HCLD/CC (ABB), Ph.D. • DIRECTOR

Instructions for Collecting and Submitting Specimens for Pertussis Diagnosis

Collecting

Materials for Pertussis Nasal Wash/Aspirate

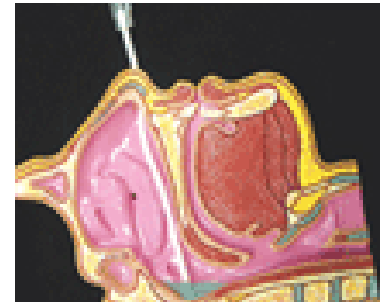
1. Gloves
2. Mask
3. Biohazard Bag
4. Eye protection
5. Shipping kit: cardboard box enclosing a Styrofoam box, cold pack, absorbent pad, 3373 label, requisition form ADPH-F-CL-42/Rev.5/01, Regan-Lowe Transport Media Tube (expiration date is 6 weeks; call BCL to order more before it expires), 1 Sterile Dry Tube, 1 Dacron or Rayon swab (*no calcium alginate*); N-Pak™ Nasopharyngeal Bulb Aspiration Kit.



N-Pak™ Nasopharyngeal Bulb Aspiration Kit
<http://www.nasalaspirationkit.com/index.html>

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Aspirate

1. Assemble all supplies.
2. Let the patient lie on their back (*supine*) with neck extended (*Neck extension is important as this allows pooling of the aspirate in the nasopharynx*).
3. Open N-Pak™ Nasopharyngeal Bulb Aspiration Kit.
4. Note calibration of catheter by age in years.
5. Remove the cap from bulb and attach the catheter to the bulb.
6. Generously lubricate the catheter.
7. If possible, ask patient to hold their breath during the procedure.
8. Expel the appropriate volume of saline from the bulb according to patient's age.
9. Insert catheter into right or left nares and follow the floor of the nose until resistance is met (*Insertion may induce coughing and tearing*).
10. Squeeze to dispense saline and release the bulb as catheter is withdrawn. The aspirate sample is adequate if at least 1cc ($\frac{1}{4}$ of the bulb) is collected.



<http://www.nasalaspirationkit.com/index.htm>

11. Detach the catheter.
12. Dispense the aspirate as follows:
 - a) For Culture: Drop (*squeeze*) some of the aspirated material onto a swab; insert swab into the Regan-Lowe transport medium tube; and store at 4°C immediately (*Ship as soon as possible*).
 - b) For PCR: Squeeze the remaining aspirated material into the sterile tube and store at 4°C immediately (*Ship as soon as possible*).
13. Make sure that the patient's name is written on each tube.
14. Complete the requisition; however, make sure that the sections for the patient's name, collection date, birth date, and health care provider are filled-in.
15. Store specimens as indicated in #12 until ready for shipping to the laboratory.
16. Place all waste materials in a disposable biohazard bag for discard.

Shipping

1. Ship specimens separately as UN 3373 Category B biological substance (see below).
 - a. Please adhere to the following packaging instructions to ship the Regan-Lowe transport tube and the tube containing the remaining aspirated material.
 - i. Wrap each tube in absorbent material. The tubes should not touch or bang together. If they rattle, use more cushioning. Use paper towels or other soft material for wrapping/cushioning.
 - ii. Place wrapped tubes in metal canister. Carefully screw cap onto metal canister.
 - iii. Place metal canister inside cardboard canister. Carefully screw cap onto cardboard canister.
 - iv. Place canister and cold pack in the Styrofoam box. Secure canister in place with newspaper, paper, Styrofoam peanuts, and etc. if needed.
 - v. Close the Styrofoam box.
 - vi. Place the completed requisition on top of the Styrofoam box.
 - vii. Close the cardboard box.
 - viii. Place address label and UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B Label on the same side of the outside of the cardboard box.
2. Ship specimen by overnight courier Monday through Thursday. Specimens collected on Friday should be stored as indicated above and shipped on Monday.
3. Please ship specimen to: **Microbiology Division, Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Clinical Labs, 8140 AUM Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117** using label that is provided.