

## Instructions for Collection and Submission of Specimens for Detection of *Bordetella pertussis* by PCR and Culture

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Michigan.gov/mdchlab

**Note: The tube of Regan-Lowe medium provided in this kit must be stored at 2 – 8°C prior to use. Do not use after expiration date listed on the tube.**

**Note: Culture is performed only by special arrangement. PCR is routinely performed because it offers greater sensitivity compared to culture.**

**Note: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, the specimen will not be tested.**

1. Allow the tube of Regan-Lowe transport medium to warm to room temperature before collecting specimen.
2. Immobilize the patient's head and remove the swab from the package.
3. Using sterile technique, bend the swab's aluminum shaft into a downward arc and gently pass through the nostril into the nasopharynx. **DO NOT FORCE THE SWAB!**
4. After specimen collection, insert the swab about half way into the Regan-Lowe transport medium.
5. With a pair of scissors, cut the shaft of the swab off flush with the top of the tube.
6. Replace cap on tube.
7. Label the tube with the same name/identifier used on the requisition.
8. Record the name/unique identifier on the tube for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
9. Specimens for PCR should be sent to MDH immediately after collection. If culture is requested, incubate the tube containing the swab for 18 – 24 h at 35°C. If no incubator is available, proceed with step ten.
10. Tighten the cap on the tube and secure with tape or parafilm.
11. Place the properly labeled tube, **wrapped in absorbent material provided**, into the plastic bag provided and then place bag containing tube into aluminum screw-capped can and secure cap.
12. Wrap **completed** test requisition around **outside** of aluminum screw-capped can.
13. Place aluminum can with **completed** test requisition into screw-capped cardboard container and **secure cap with tape**.
14. **Complete** and apply the return shipping, Biological Substance label to cardboard container and ship by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g. a courier, bus, or U.S. Express mail, etc.) to the Lansing laboratory – only.

**NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with current regulations.**