Instructions for collection and submission of specimens for Detection of *Bordetella pertussis* by PCR

I. **Collection kit**
   A. Unit 15 (IATA Category B)
   B. NP swab with transport tube

II. **Sample collection**- to prevent possible false-positive PCR test results, specimens should NOT be collected in the same area used for pertussis vaccination.
   A. Immobilize the patient’s head and remove the NP swab from the transport tube.
   B. Using sterile technique, gently pass through the nostril into the nasopharynx. **DO NOT FORCE THE SWAB!**
   C. After specimen collection, place the swab back into the transport tube.
   D. Make sure the cap is completely closed.

III. **Labeling**
   A. Label the tube with the complete patient name and at least 1 unique identifier (For example: specimen number, medical record number, etc.).
   B. Enter the required information on the test requisition form (DCH-0583). The patient name and unique identifier on the form must be entered **exactly** the same as the information on the tube.
   C. If there are multiple specimens, please label each specimen tube and use a separate test requisition for each specimen.

IV. **Package and shipping**
   A. Specimens be sent MDHHS immediately after collection.
      **NOTE: If culture is requested, please contact the laboratory at 517-335-8067 for further information.**
   B. Insert the specimen and absorbent pad into the small plastic bag provided. Make sure it is sealed. Place in the large plastic bag with the Biohazard symbol (Bio-Bag).
   C. Place the completed MDHHS test requisition in the outside pocket of the Bio-Bag. Seal the bag.
   D. Close the box and secure with sealing tape on both sides of the flap.
   E. Attach the completed address label with the UN3733 label attached.
   F. Send to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services laboratory as soon as possible (e.g. courier, 1st class mail (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS), etc.).
   H. The specimen will not be tested if:
      1. The specimen is not properly labeled or the test requisition not completed.
      2. The specimen label does not match the test requisition.

V. **Packaging and shipping are the responsibility of the shipper. Please be sure it is in compliance with shipping regulations.**
Unit 15-\textit{Bordetella pertussis} collection kit