

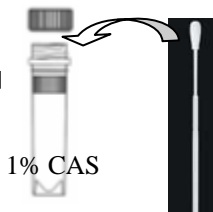


# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMENS

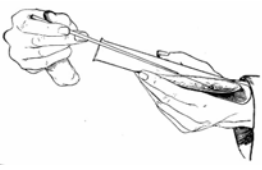
This document is available electronically at: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/download\\_forms.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/download_forms.htm)

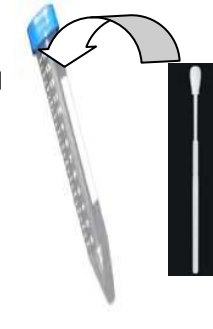
<b>1.</b> 	<p>(1) Use the Copan® Flocked Swab either Pediatric or Adult included in the kit. It is not necessary to bend the swab prior to collection.</p>	<b>2.</b> 	<p>(2) Insert swab into anterior nares and gently swab posterior nasopharynx. For more info SEE: <a href="http://copanusa.com/videos/education/index.php">http://copanusa.com/videos/education/index.php</a></p>
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STEP 3 IS FOR PCR + CULTURE.  
FOR PCR ONLY, OMIT STEP 3.

<b>3.</b>  1% CAS	<p>(3) Moisten swabbed specimen in 1% CAS solution. Discard CAS tube after use Do not return with kit</p>
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STEP 4 IS FOR PCR + CULTURE.  
FOR PCR ONLY, OMIT STEP 4.

<b>4.</b> 	<p>(4) Swab surface of Regan-Lowe Transport Slant with swabbed specimen. Cap and Place transport slant in shipping container for return to the Lab.</p>
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<b>5.</b> 	<p>(5) Break swab at molded breaking point &amp; drop inside the dry tube. Screw cap on tightly (sterility not required). Place dry tube with swab and transport slant into inner container and return to the State Lab.</p>
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- PCR + Culture -or- PCR ONLY**
- **PCR + Culture** is recommended for greatest overall sensitivity and specificity.
  - **PCR ONLY** kits are available and can be stored indefinitely at room temperature.
  - Standard kits (**PCR + Culture**) with expired media can be used for **PCR ONLY** tests – simply discard the media slant and omit steps 3 and 4 above.
  - If no kit is available, any metal-shafted, Dacron, Nasopharyngeal swab and appropriately sized screw cap tube can be used for **PCR ONLY** tests.

**For PCR + Culture:** RETURN INOCULATED REGAN-LOWE TRANSPORT SLANT, DRY TUBE WITH SWAB AND COMPLETED PAPERWORK IN THE MAILING/SHIPPING CONTAINERS PROVIDED. **DO NOT STORE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.**

The use of a same day courier or overnight transport is recommended to optimize the isolation of *Bordetella pertussis*. The use of cold packs may maintain the viability of the organism and is recommended if transit time is anticipated to be greater than 24 hours.

NOTE: If specimens are collected late in the day or on the weekend, REFRIGERATE KIT AT 4°C until the morning of the next working day.

**For PCR only:** RETURN DRY TUBE WITH SWAB AND COMPLETED PAPERWORK IN THE MAILING/SHIPPING CONTAINERS PROVIDED. REFRIGERATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

**SHIPPING: Use Enclosed Shipping Label with Mailer**  
**SHIP TO: Health & Environmental Testing Laboratory**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
221 STATE STREET-STATION 12 Augusta, ME 04333-00212  
Tel: (207) 287-2727