**Detection of Pertussis by Real Time PCR**

***Laboratory Submission Information Sheet***

Instructions for collecting nasopharyngeal specimens for pertussis PCR

1. Use the Copan® Flocked Swab either Pediatric or Adult size included in the kit. It is not necessary to bend the swab prior to collection.
2. Insert swab into anterior nares and gently swab posterior nasopharynx. More information available at <http://copanusa.com/videos/education/index>.
3. Break swab at molded breaking point and drop inside the dry tube. Screw cap on tightly. Place dry tube with swab into inner container and return to the State Lab.
4. PCR kits are available and can be stored indefinitely at room temperature.
5. If no kit is available, any metal-shafted, Dacron, Nasopharyngeal swab and an appropriately sized screw cap tube can be used.
6. Return dry tube with swab and completed paperwork in the mailing/shipping containers provided. Refrigeration is not required.

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