



Department of
Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
221 State Street
12 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Detection of Pertussis by Real Time RT PCR *Laboratory Submission Information Sheet*

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes: Pertussis is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nasopharyngeal swabs - Collect specimen in a leak-proof container soon after onset of illness and preferably before start of treatment.• Refrigeration is not required for PCR specimens.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONLY Synthetic-tipped (Polyester, Dacron, Rayon) swabs should be used.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results should be expected within 24hrs from business days of specimen receipt
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyze, collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Unlabeled, poorly labeled specimens or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bordetella pertussis DNA Detected; Bordetella spp DNA NOT Detected; Equivocal for Bordetella pertussis DNA; Bordetella parapertussis DNA DETECTED; Bordetella holmesii DNA DETECTED; Inconclusive for Bordetella spp DNA• All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$110 (Fee waived if testing/identification is part of an outbreak investigation by Maine CDC)
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87801 (PCR)
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706• CT/GC at 207-287-6244



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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.