

CHILDLAB

Guide to Laboratory Services

OTHER

BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS /B. PARAPERTUSSIS POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) DETECTION

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Microbiology Laboratory offers testing of nasopharyngeal secretions by the PCR technique for laboratory diagnosis of *B. pertussis* and/or *B. parapertussis* infection.

The procedures below should be followed to insure proper specimen processing.

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- (1) Check collection kit to insure that transport tube with medium is not beyond expiration date; tubes should be stored refrigerated before use. Collection kits may be obtained from ChildLab.
- (2) Collect two nasopharyngeal specimens (one left and one right) using two mini-tip plastic-shaft Nylon flocked swabs that are included in the kit. Only experienced medical personnel should perform NP collections; such collections may induce paroxysmal coughing.
- (3) **Place both swabs in a single screw-capped tube containing transport medium and break the plastic shaft at the scoring leaving the swab tip in the tube and tighten the cap securely.**