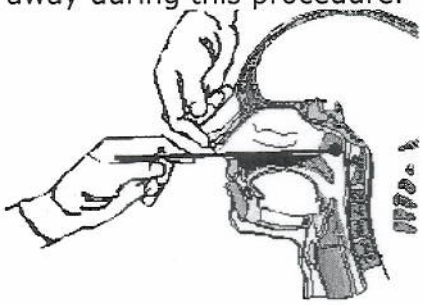
Test	Pertussis PCR
Testing Lab	Anchorage
Disease(s)	Whooping cough
Organism(s)	*Bordetella pertussis* and *Bordetella parapertussis*
Test Method	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
Specimen Collection	• **PCR**: NP swab (COPAN) in sterile dry tube. • **Symptom information on Test Request Form is required**. (Cough illness? Duration? Antibiotic treatment?)
Detailed Collection Instructions	Click here for Pertussis PCR-Detailed Collection Instructions
Storage/ Transport	• Ship specimen immediately at ambient temperature. • Refrigerate PCR swab, if possible, until shipped.
Results	**PCR** *B. pertussis* DNA Detected/Not Detected *B. parapertussis* DNA Detected/Not Detected
Interpretation	*Bordetella* PCR testing results must be correlated with patient history to confirm as a case of pertussis infection. The PCR test detects the presence of a specific DNA sequence present in *Bordetella pertussis*. This sequence is also present in *Bordetella holmesii* (IS481), an uncommon respiratory pathogen of humans.
Turnaround Time	PCR: 1-4 days (Testing performed on Monday and Thursday)

Pertussis PCR: Detailed Collection Instructions

Supplies Needed: Dacron/Polyester Nasopharyngeal Swab
(Fisher # 14-906-23, 22-209-50, 23-600-952, 23-600-955 or VWR # 95041-316) NO cotton or calcium alginate swabs will be accepted.
Anchorage Laboratory Requisition Form

Collection Instructions:

1. Assemble all supplies.
2. The nasopharyngeal swab used for collecting this sample type has a fine wire shaft.
3. One swab is collected for PCR during this procedure as described below.
4. Remove any mucus from the patient's nose.
5. Estimate the distance to the nasopharynx. *Prior to insertion of the swab, measure the distance from the corner of the nose to the front of the ear and insert the shaft ONLY half this length.*
6. Carefully, open package containing the NP swab and remove swab for sample collection.
7. Immobilize the patient's head. Have the patient sit with head against a wall as there is a tendency to pull away during this procedure.



8. Gently insert the swab along the medial part of the septum, along the base of the nose, until it reaches the posterior nares. Gentle rotation of the swab may be helpful in accomplishing the insertion. (If resistance is encountered on one side, try the other nostril, as the patient may have a deviated septum).
9. Leave swab in place in nasopharynx for 10 seconds, then gently rotate to remove columnar epithelial cells and remove swab.
10. Put the NP swab back into tube or paper sleeve.
11. Seal paper sleeve with tape to allow external decontamination without compromise of specimen.
12. Follow labeling and transport instructions below.

Labeling:

1. Clearly label the paper sleeve or tube containing the swab with patient's name and collection date.
2. Complete the Anchorage Laboratory Requisition Form, including symptom information.

Transport:

1. Place tube or paper sleeve containing swab in the Ziploc portion of a specimen transport bag and seal this portion. Place the completed requisition form in the adjacent pouch.
2. Package as a Biological Substance Category B specimen according to all current shipping regulations and transport to the State Public Health Laboratory-Anchorage as soon as possible. Ship at ambient temperature.

NOTE: If possible, hold the swab for PCR at 4°C until transport, ship at ambient temperature.