

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMENS FOR PERTUSSIS PCR

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)

<p><b>1.</b></p>  <p>(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.</p>	<p><b>2.</b></p>  <p>Insert swab into anterior nares and gently swab posterior nasopharynx. For more info SEE:</p> <p><a href="http://copanusa.com/videos/education/index.php">http://copanusa.com/videos/education/index.php</a></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>  <p>(3) Break swab at molded breaking point &amp; drop inside the dry tube. Screw cap on tightly. Place dry tube with swab into inner container and return to the State Lab.</p>	<p><b>PCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PCR kits are available and can be stored indefinitely at room temperature.</li><li>• If no kit is available, any metal-shafted, Dacron, Nasopharyngeal swab and an appropriately sized screw cap tube can be used.</li></ul>

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

Facilities using a Courier Service to transport specimens to Maine HETL do not need to use shipping label. If your facility has an questions, please contact the Bacteriology section at 287-1704 for instructions on collection.

**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