Submission Requirements

1. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs that are collected within 2 weeks of symptom onset are optimal specimens for the detection of *Bordetella pertussis*.
2. Specimens should be collected prior to start of antibiotic treatment.
3. This test should NOT be used on asymptomatic individuals who have been exposed to pertussis.
4. SHL utilizes a PCR test method for the detection of *B. pertussis* DNA. PCR detects both live and dead bacteria and is NOT a test of active disease and cannot be used as a test of cure.
5. Label each specimen transport tube with the patient name or unique identifier. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.
6. A completed **Viral and Bacterial PCR and DFA Test Request Form** must accompany the specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling (*Use of the SHL test kit is preferred*)

1. Use the Hydra Flock swab supplied in the SHL specimen collection kit.
2. Also acceptable: Dacron polyester NP or nasal swab, nasopharyngeal/nasal wash/aspirates.
3. NOT acceptable: Cotton-tipped, wooden-shafted or calcium alginate swabs.
4. PCR is a very sensitive test, and precautions should be taken to not cross-contaminate specimens (i.e. wear gloves and change before and after collecting specimen. Avoid contact with environmental surfaces).

**Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection Method**

1. Gently insert nasopharyngeal swab (Hydra Flock) into a nostril until the posterior nasopharynx is reached.
2. Leave the swab in place for 10-30 seconds.
3. Slowly remove with a rotating motion.
4. Place swab tip into the 1.5 ml screw cap tube provided in the kit.
5. Bend swab back and forth in the tube until the swab tip breaks at the point where the swab shaft becomes thicker. The break point is approximately 1.5" from the tip of the swab. Use caution and avoid touching any part of the swab that was inside the nostril to prevent contamination.
6. Tightly cap the tube.
7. Package as described in “shipping instructions” section.
**Test Request Form**

1. Complete **Viral and Bacterial PCR and DFA Test Request Form**, including all patient identifiers, by going online to: [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml)

2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided. Be sure to include:
   a. Specimen type
   b. Date of specimen collection
   c. Mark test(s) requested on the form

**Shipping Instructions**

1. Include completed Viral and Bacterial PCR and DFA Test Request Form in the outside pocket of biohazard bag.
2. Place the specimen and absorbent material in biohazard bag (one specimen per biohazard bag).
3. Place biohazard bag in the white plastic shipping container supplied in SHL kit. (Note: Multiple specimens can be shipped in the same white plastic shipping container.)
4. Use the pre-addressed label provided.
5. Ship to SHL as soon as possible at ambient temperature.
6. Ship specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

**Contact Information**

1. For test collection kits, go online to [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms) or call (319) 335-4500
2. For *B. Pertussis* testing questions: (319) 335-4500, ask for Molecular Biology