

## **CDC, 2011: Collection of Specimens for Diagnosis of Pertussis**

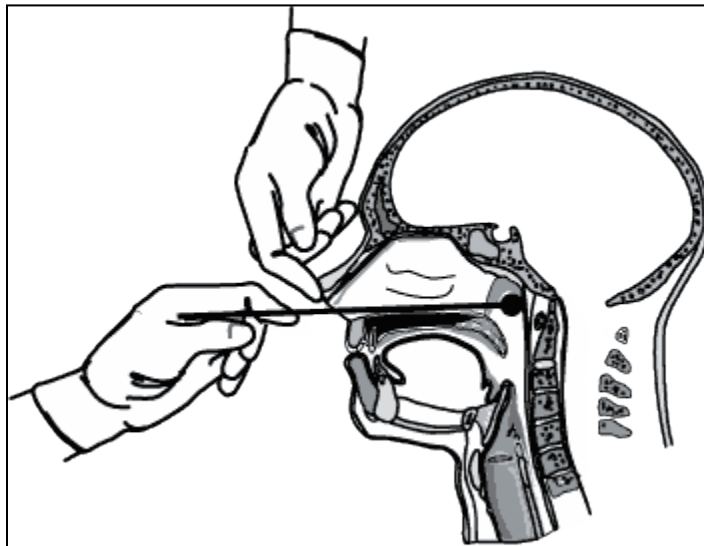
Adapted from: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html#2>

Whenever possible, a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate should be obtained from all persons with suspected cases. A properly obtained nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate is essential for optimal results. Health department personnel who are asked to obtain these specimens should receive training and supervision from persons experienced in collection of nasopharyngeal specimens. Collection methods for PCR are similar to those for culture, and often the same sample can be used for both tests.

**However, calcium alginate swabs cannot be used to collect nasopharyngeal specimens for PCR.**

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Proper technique for obtaining a nasopharyngeal specimen for isolation of *Bordetella pertussis*:



Additional information and a short video demonstrating proper technique for obtaining specimens are available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html#2>