

FACT SHEET

Bordetella PCR

Test 2110

Test Description

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs a molecular amplification for detection of the DNA of *Bordetella pertussis* by a real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction method. Polymerase chain reaction testing or PCR is superior to culture for detection of the agent of whooping cough. The real-time PCR assay will also detect *B. parapertussis* (not a reportable laboratory finding).

Sensitivity

The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory has chosen PCR as the primary diagnostic method due to its superior sensitivity (95% vs 45-60% for culture) and specificity (96-98% vs 75-85% for DFA) and is no longer performing culture in response to request for diagnostic testing for pertussis.

Specificity

Analytical specificity for all markers in a number of studies of PCR detection of *B. pertussis* fall in the range of 96-98%.

Assay has been validated by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory.

Specimens: :

Preferred specimen: Naso-pharyngeal (NP) swab in saline or viral transport medium (VTM).

Specimens may be stored for up to 72 hours at refrigerator temperature before processing. Residual specimens can be stored at -70C indefinitely

Pertussis saline transport medium kits are provided by the laboratory

Holding time

- 72 hours at refrigerator temperature after collection ;
- Indefinitely at -70C

CPT Code: 87798



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