

Best Practices for Health Care Professionals on the Use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Diagnosing Pertussis

CDC has recently released new information on the use of PCR for the detection of *Bordetella pertussis*. The document, titled **Best Practices for Health Care Professionals on the Use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Diagnosing Pertussis**, discusses when to test patient specimens by PCR, optimal specimen collection, and interpretation of results. Also included is information regarding potential environmental contamination of specimens with pertussis DNA when collected in the same areas where vaccinations are administered. The web site to download pertussis document is listed below. (A PDF of Best Practices for Health Care Professionals on the Use of PCR for Diagnosing Pertussis is attached.)

For information visit the web sites listed below:

Best Practices for Health Care Professionals on the Use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Diagnosing Pertussis

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-pcr-bestpractices.html>

New NP swab and aspirate collection videos:

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

More information on diagnostic testing:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/index.html>

Distinguishing clinical features of pertussis:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/features.html>

CDC's toll-free information line, 800.CDC.INFO (800.232.4636), or TTY: 888.232.6348, is available 24 hours