

**Microbiology Services request form**

*****Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough) antibodies in oral fluid for notified cases aged 2 to <17 years of age**

Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit

61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT

Please return this form with the sample.

|  |
| --- |
| GP surgery information |
| Surgery name: Click or tap here to enter text.GP address 1: Click or tap here to enter text. GP address 2: Click or tap here to enter text.GP address 3: Click or tap here to enter text.GP Postcode: Click or tap here to enter text.GP telephone: Click or tap here to enter text. | Health Protection Team:Click or tap here to enter text.HPZone identifier:Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Patient information** |
| Surname: Click or tap here to enter text.Forename: Click or tap here to enter text.Date of birth: Enter as dd/mm/yyyy Age: Click or tap here to enter text.NHS number: Enter as nnn nnn nnnnSex: Choose an item. | Patient/guardian/parent address:Line 1: Click or tap here to enter text.Line 2: Click or tap here to enter text.Line 3: Click or tap here to enter text.Town/City: Click or tap here to enter text.Postcode: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Sample information:** | Date sample taken (dd/mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Clinical information:** |
| Date of onset of coughing: Enter date as dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_What was the date of the above patient’s last whooping cough vaccine?\*: Enter date as dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\*also known as the 5-in-1, 6-in-1, DTP, DTaP, pertussis, Pediacel, Infanrix-hexa, Infanrix-IPV, Vaxelis or Repevax |
| Has the patient been at nursery or school since their cough started? Yes [ ]  No [ ] If yes, please provide nursey or school name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Please wait until the patient has been coughing for at least 14 days before taking this oral fluid sample.** |
| Kit Supplier Reference Use Only – Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text. |



UK Health Security Agency

61 Colindale Avenue

London

NW9 5HT

07 May 2024

HPZone Ref: Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Dear Parent/Guardian of Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text.

Your doctor has recently notified your (or your child’s) suspected diagnosis of whooping cough (pertussis) to the local UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Health Protection Team. Your doctor is legally obliged to report all such cases, in confidence, to UKHSA.

UKHSA has the responsibility to investigate and control the spread of infectious diseases. To plan future vaccination programmes, it is important to confirm the diagnosis of whooping cough in as many cases as possible. A test has been developed which will diagnose recent infections from a sample of fluid taken from the mouth.

The sample is taken by rubbing a sponge swab for about 1 to 2 minutes along the gums, until the swab is wet. It is easy and painless – even in young children. The sample can be taken by the patient, a parent or guardian, or by a doctor or nurse.

**It is important that this sample is taken at least 14 days after the cough started.**

We have enclosed a special kit with instructions. Once you have taken the sample using the instructions provided, this can then be posted to the laboratory using the pre-paid addressed bag. If you are unable or uncomfortable with performing the test yourself, please do not hesitate to contact your GP who will be happy to arrange taking the sample for you. The sample will only be used to identify whether you or your child has had recent whooping cough infection. The results should be available from your doctor within a few weeks. If for any reason you do not wish the test to be performed, this will not affect the care you receive from your doctor.

Thank you for your help with this important programme, which aims to help protect children better in the future. If you would like to learn more about this disease, please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/> or scan the QR code below.

If you have any queries, you can talk to a doctor or nurse at your GP Surgery.

Kind regards,

UK Health Security Agency