

Agent Summary– Pertussis toxin ([BMBL5](#))

1. Precaution

Pertussis toxin is a secreted protein exotoxin and an important virulence factor produced exclusively by the *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria which causes whooping cough.

Pertussis is primarily a toxin-mediated disease. The bacteria attach to the cilia of the respiratory epithelial cells, produce toxins that paralyze the cilia, and cause inflammation of the respiratory tract, which interferes with the clearing of pulmonary secretions.

Transmission most commonly occurs by the respiratory route through contact with respiratory droplets, or by contact with airborne droplets of respiratory secretions. Transmission occurs less frequently by contact with freshly contaminated articles of an infected person.

2. PPE: follow SOP #2.0 donning and doffing procedure
3. Lab area : _____
4. Animal holding area : _____
5. Animal procedure area: _____