



SPECIMEN COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

SELECT AGENT REFERRALS FROM CLINICAL LABORATORIES OR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Emerging Disease/Microbiology Section

Select Agents are highly pathogenic organisms with the potential to be used as bioterrorism agents.

Examples include Bacillus anthracis, Brucella species and Ebola virus.

Test	Test to be Performed	Comments	Normal Values	Turn around time
Suspected Select Agent Isolates or samples for identification: Brucella sp., Bacillus anthracis, Francisella tularensis, Burkholderia mallei/pseudomallei, Yersinia pestis, Ricin, Multi-agent environmental samples	Indicate suspected agent in Submitter Comments	Contact Laboratory for instructions <u>before</u> transport. Do not transport to lab without prior notification. A Chain of Custody form must be included for environmental samples.	No Select Agents detected by culture or PCR	3 days

Shipping Guidance for Select Agents from Clinical Laboratories:

1. Unconfirmed Select Agents submitted for rule-outs by Clinical Laboratories to the Public Health Lab should be submitted as Category **B** Infectious Substances. Notify the receiving laboratory before shipping to receive packaging and shipping guidance.
2. Confirmed Select Agents or specimens with a high likelihood of containing high pathogenic Select Agents such as Ebola virus must be packaged and shipped to the testing laboratory using FedEx. The receiving laboratory must be notified by the shipper in advance.