Public Health Laboratory

SPECIMEN COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE
LABORATORY RESPONSE NETWORK (LRN) REFERRALS
FROM CLINICAL LABORATORIES OR LAW ENFORCEMENT

LRN Reference Laboratories perform testing for select agents which are highly pathogenic organisms with the potential to be used as bioterrorism agents. Examples include Isolates or samples suspected of containing Brucella sp., Bacillus anthracis, Francisella tularensis, Burkholderia mallei/pseudomallei, Yersinia pestis, Ricin, and environmental samples tested for multiple agents.

Test to be Performed	**Comments**	**Normal Values**	**Turnaround time**
LRN Testing: Indicate suspected agent	**Contact Laboratory for instructions before 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 PCR, 7 days culture

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 Public Health Lab 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 Public Health Lab must be notified by the shipper in advance.