

North Dakota Department of Health Bioterrorism Agent Testing

Notify the Division of Microbiology and the Division of Disease Control if bioterrorism is suspected.

Notify the Division of Microbiology for referral instructions if your laboratory is unable to rule out BT agents.

Please refer to www.asm.org for the most current sentinel site laboratory rule out procedures.

After normal work hours, contact the on-call microbiologist directly at 701.400.2772 or State Radio to speak to the case manager.

There is No Charge for Bioterrorism Agent Testing.

Test	Source/Collection
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (Anthrax) Confirmation PCR/Culture	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Isolate in appropriate tubed transport medium or cut out a piece of agar with growth and send in a sterile container. Plates are not accepted. Cutaneous collect in vesicular fluid with sterile swab or collect from beneath the eschar. Gastrointestinal collect blood, stool, or rectal swabs. Inhalational collect blood.</p> <p>Transport: Cutaneous, gastrointestinal and inhalational at room temperature.</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 1 to 2 days</p>
Brucellosis Confirmation PCR/Culture	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Isolate in appropriate tubed transport medium or cut out a piece of agar with growth and send in a sterile container. Plates are not accepted. For primary isolation and PCR, collect blood or bone marrow</p> <p>Transport: Room temperature</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 3 to 5 days</p>
<i>Burkholderia mallei</i> (Glanders) or <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> (Meliodosis) PCR/Culture	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Isolate in appropriate tubed transport medium or cut out a piece of agar with growth and send in a sterile container. Plates are not accepted.</p> <p>Transport: Blood, bone marrow, sputum, abscess and wound swabs, urine transport blood room temp; all others transport at 2 to 8 °C.</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 1 to 2 days</p>
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> toxin DIG ELISA/ PCR/Mouse Bioassay	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Contact the Division of Microbiology for specific recommendation regarding collection and transportation.</p> <p>All testing will be performed by the Minnesota Department of Health and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Turn Around Time: Procedure dependent</p>

Test	Source/Collection
<p><i>Francisella tularensis</i> (Tularemia) Confirmation PCR/Culture</p>	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Isolate in appropriate tubed transport medium or cut out a piece of agar with growth and send in a sterile container. Plates are not accepted. For primary isolation and PCR collect blood, biopsied tissue or ulcer scraping.</p> <p>Transport: Blood at room temperature Tissue and ulcer samples at 2 to 8°C</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 2 to 4 days</p>
<p>Ricin Toxin TRF</p>	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Liquid, soil, powder, wipes, swabs, paper, plant material and food samples</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 1 day</p>
<p>Smallpox/ Vaccinia PCR</p>	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Contact the Division of Microbiology for specific recommendation regarding collection and transportation.</p> <p>Specimens to collect include: Fluid and cells from two or more unroofed vesicles/pustules; a minimum of four touch preparation slides; two to four synthetic swabs in viral transport medium.</p> <p>Call the North Dakota Department of Health if you suspect smallpox, an adverse reaction to smallpox vaccination or require consultation on an unusual or pustular rash illness.</p> <p>Confirmation for Smallpox will be performed by the Minnesota Department of Health and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>The smallpox risk level should be clearly noted on the laboratory requisition form accompanying any specimen labeled as “vesicle,” “blister,” “rash,” or otherwise suggestive of acute/generalized vesicular or pustular rash illness.</p> <p>Turn Around Time: Preliminary PCR results within 1 day for vaccinia, VZV and non variola panel</p>
<p><i>Yersinia pestis</i> (Plague) Confirmation PCR/Culture</p>	<p>Acceptable Specimen: Isolate in appropriate tubed transport medium or cut out a piece of agar with growth and send in a sterile container. Plates are not accepted. For primary isolation and PCR, collect blood, tissue aspirate or biopsied tissue.</p> <p>Transport: Blood at room temperature Tissue samples at 2 to 8°C</p> <p>Turn Around Time: 3 to 5 days</p>