



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

Send-Out Protocol

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (SLOPHL) is a participating reference laboratory of the national **Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats (LRN-B)**. SLOPHL is responsible for LRN-B testing (principally Bioterrorism [BT] agent testing) in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. Please follow the recommended guidelines listed below when you suspect that you have recovered one of the following organisms or have conducted testing that does not rule out:

- *Bacillus anthracis* or *B. cereus biovar anthracis*
- *Brucella* species
- *Francisella tularensis*
- *Burkholderia mallei*
- *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
- *Yersinia pestis*

Send-Out Guidelines:

1. Contact SLOPHL at **(805) 781-5510** to notify one of the Microbiologists of your suspect organism.
2. We currently recommend shipping specimens via **FedEx** when possible. **Clinical specimens/isolates should be sent as Category B** (Standard Overnight).
 - a. Other shipping arrangements may be needed depending on time of week. Alternatively, you can use your own courier to have the samples delivered to us. We can also arrange for our courier to pick up a specimen.
3. Send either the original specimen (if no work-up has been performed) or the most representative culture with growth of the suspect biothreat agent.
 - a. If the specimen tests positive for one of the organisms listed above, you will be asked to destroy any remaining plates, slants, or culture bottles.
 - b. Upon request: The SLOPHL will perform MALDI-TOF identification on a Gram-negative isolate that has been ruled out as a biothreat agent.
4. NOTE: Personnel at the submitting laboratory are responsible for undergoing certification to pack and ship Category B substances according to Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements.
5. Please fill out the bioterrorism test requisition (requisition 600), which can be found on the SLOPHL website.
6. If you have any questions, please contact us:
 - a. Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm: (805) 781-5510
 - b. Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm: (805) 781-5508
 - c. All other after-hours: (510) 205-8642 to reach our laboratory director, Dr. Glen Miller
7. SLOPHL will contact your local jurisdiction Public Health Laboratory and the California Department of Public Health in the event of a positive confirmation.