

Reference cultures that must be submitted to the Office of Public Health Laboratory

All public and private laboratories that obtain positive laboratory results for the organisms listed below are legally mandated to submit reference cultures to Louisiana's Public Health Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for additional testing. Please address any questions regarding specimen submission to the State Laboratory. Their contact information can be found on their website:

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/483>

LAC TITLE 51: PUBLIC HEALTH—SANITARY CODE, PART II. THE CONTROL OF DISEASES, CHAPTER 1. DISEASE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (December 2015)

§107. Laboratory and Healthcare Facility Reporting Requirements (Formerly §113)

C. A reference culture is required to be sent to the Office of Public Health laboratory for the following microorganisms within five business days of the final identification of the microorganism:

1. *Bacillus anthracis* (confirmed or suspected);
2. *Bordetella pertussis*;
3. *Brucella spp.*;
4. *Burkholderia mallei*;
5. *Burkholderia pseudomallei*;
6. *Campylobacter spp.*;
7. *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*;
8. *E. coli* O157:H7 or *E. coli* Shiga toxin producing;
9. *Francisella spp.*;
10. *Listeria spp.*;
11. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis, bovis* or *africanum*;
12. *Plesiomonas spp.*;
13. *Salmonella spp.*;
14. *Shigella spp.*;
15. *Vibrio spp.*;
16. *Yersinia enterocolitica*; and
17. *Yersinia pestis*.

D. A reference culture is required to be sent to the Office of Public Health laboratory for the following microorganisms if the original culture was from a sterile site (*e.g.*, blood, spinal fluid, other internal fluid, tissue, etc.). Such reference culture shall be sent to the Office of Public Health laboratory within five business days of the final identification of the microorganism:

1. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b or untyped;
2. *Neisseria meningitidis*; and
3. *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

CIDT Positive Sample Submission to State Laboratory

The increased use of Culture-Independent Diagnostic Tests (CIDTs) to detect enteric pathogens has led many clinical laboratories to rely on multiplex PCR panels for detection rather than traditional culture methods. Although CIDTs are quicker and easier to use than traditional culture methods, they do not yield isolates, which public health

officials rely on to distinguish between pathogen serotypes, determine antimicrobial resistance, monitor trends, and detect outbreaks. In order to obtain this valuable data, the Louisiana Office of Public Health (LOPH) Laboratory is requesting the submission of stool samples and selective/enrichment broths for which CIDTs have indicated the detection of one or more enteric pathogens. Pathogenic enteric isolates currently required by the state sanitary code for submission include *Campylobacter* spp., *Plesiomonas* spp., *Salmonella* spp., *Vibrio* spp., *Yersinia enterocolitica*, Shiga-like toxin-producing *E. coli* or *E. coli* 0157, and *Shigella*.

Sterile, screw cap aliquot vials will be provided by the LOPH Laboratory to all submitters currently performing CIDTs on stool samples for the presence of enteric pathogens. Stool specimens suspended in Cary Blair transport media for which CIDTs have indicated the presence of an enteric pathogen should be aliquoted into the sterile vials provided. A minimum sample volume of 3 mL should be submitted for testing. Aliquoted stool specimens submitted in Cary Blair transport media should be shipped in an insulated shipping container on gel ice (refrigerated) as a Category B shipment. In addition to Cary Blair stool specimens, testing facilities should submit any inoculated selective and/or enrichment broths from which CIDTs have indicated the presence of Shiga toxin positive *E. coli*. These inoculated selective and/or enrichment broths should be shipped in an insulated shipping container on gel ice (refrigerated) as a Category A shipment. Category A and B shipments should be packaged and submitted as per all applicable guidelines, and, ideally, should be received by the LOPH Laboratory within two (2) days of collection. Submitters are strongly encouraged to submit all samples as soon as Culture-Independent Diagnostic Testing is complete in order to maintain organism viability during transport.

If your facility is currently performing CIDTs for detection of enteric pathogens, please contact the LOPH Microbiology Laboratory at (225) 219-5253 to request the appropriate aliquot vials. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenna Iberg Johnson at LOPH Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at (504) 568-8312 or jenna.ibergjohnson@la.gov or Jean-Jacques Aucoin, Microbiology Lab Manager at the LOPH Laboratory at (225) 219-5262 or jean-jacques.aucoin@la.gov.