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: https://ldh.la.gov/page/483

LAC TITLE 51: PUBLIC HEALTH—SANITARY CODE, PART II. THE CONTROL OF DISEASES, CHAPTER 1. DISEASE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (DEC 2021)

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

C. A reference culture or culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) specimen is required to be sent to the Office of Public Health laboratory, or a specialized laboratory as indicated below, for the following microorganisms within five business days of the final identification of the microorganism:

1. *Acinetobacter* spp., pan-resistant; consult with the OPH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology for submission to the CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN);
2. *Bacillus anthracis* (confirmed or suspected);
3. *Bordetella pertussis*;
4. *Brucella* spp.
5. Burkholderia mallei;
6. Burkholderia pseudomallei;
7. *Campylobacter* spp.;
8. *Candida auris* submitted to the CDC's ARLN; consult with the OPH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology for common misidentifications of C. auris (e.g., *C. haemulonii, C. duobushaemulonii, C. famata, C. sake, C. lusitaniae, C.parapsilosis, C. catenulata, C. guilliermondii*, and *Rhodotorula glutinis*);
9. Corynebacterium diphtheriae;
10. *E. coli* O157:H7 or E. coli Shiga toxin producing;
11. Enterobacteriaceae, carbapenem-resistant (excluding *Klebsiella pneumoniae, K. oxytoca, E. coli*, and *Enterobacter* spp.); consult with OPH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology for submission to the CDC ARLN;
12. Francisella spp.;
13. Klebsiella pneumoniae, K. oxytoca. E. coli, and Enterobacter spp., carbapenum-resistant;
14. *Listeria* spp.;
15. Mycobacterium tuberculosis, bovis or africanum;
16. *Plesiomonas* spp;
17. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, carbapenum-resistant;
18. *Salmonella* spp.;
19. *Shigella* spp.;
20. *Vibrio* spp.;
21. *Yersinia enterocolitica*; and
22. *Yersinia pestis*

D. A reference culture or culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) specimen 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 pneumonia*

Submission of stool specimens with positive Culture Independent Diagnostic Test (CIDT) results

The increased use of Culture-Independent Diagnostic Tests (CIDTs) for the detection of enteric pathogens in stool specimens has led many clinical laboratories to rely on multiplex PCR panels rather than traditional culture methods for pathogen detection. Although CIDTs have substantially shorter turnaround times than traditional culture methods, they do not yield viable isolates which are used to determine antimicrobial resistance, identify pathogen serotypes, monitor transmission trends, and detect outbreaks. This information is essential for public health officials to study the distribution of infectious diseases in the community and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. In order to obtain this valuable data, the Louisiana Office of Public Health (LOPH) Laboratory is requesting the submission of stool samples for which CIDTs have indicated the detection of one or more enteric pathogens. Pathogenic enteric isolates currently required for submission by the state sanitary code include: Campylobacter spp., Plesiomonas spp., Salmonella spp., Vibrio spp., Yersinia enterocolitica, Yersinia pestis, Shiga-like toxin-producing E. coli or E. coli 0157, and Shigella spp.

CIDT positive stool specimens suspended in Cary Blair transport media should be referred to the LOPH Laboratory for CIDT Enteric Pathogen Confirmation. Stool specimens submitted in Cary Blair transport media should be shipped via the LOPH Laboratory's contracted courier (in-state only), or in an insulated container via commercial carrier as a Category B shipment on gel ice (refrigerated). Category 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.

Effective April 1, 2022, stool samples submitted to the LOPH Laboratory for CIDT Enteric Pathogen Confirmation will be tested for investigational, epidemiological purposes only. Final test reports for CIDT Enteric Pathogen Confirmations will no longer be provided to submitting facilities. Submitting facilities requiring confirmation of enteric pathogens detected by CIDTs are encouraged to attempt recovery of enteric pathogens via culture. Per the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, recovered enteric pathogen isolates should be referred to the LOPH Laboratory for testing. Final test reports will continue to be provided to all submitting facilities for enteric pathogen isolates submitted to the LOPH Laboratory for ID confirmation and characterization.

Facilities submitting stool samples for CIDT Enteric Pathogen Confirmation must submit samples with a completed Lab Form 93 requisition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jean-Jacques Aucoin, Microbiology Laboratory Manager at the LOPH Laboratory at (225) 219-5262 or jean-jacques.aucoin@la.gov or Raychel Berkheimer at LOPH Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at (504) 568-8307 or raychel.berkheimer@la.gov.