



How to Handle Bioterrorism Agents



Please use the Trigger Point Checklist to determine if rule out procedures need to be followed. If a Trigger Point is identified, move all work to BSC.

Start Here: Patient History

Travel to South East Asia could be an indicator of *Burkholderia*







Tick bites are often associated with *Francisella tularensis*

Hunting hogs/domestic pigs or eating dairy products made from unpasteurized milk could be a tip for *Brucella*



Travel to Cameron or Cote d'Ivoire increases the suspicion for *Bacillus cereus var. anthracis*

Laboratory workers that have worked with one of these agents outside of containment, Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) are at risk of acquiring an infection with that agent.

Next: Unable to Rule-Out a BT Agent

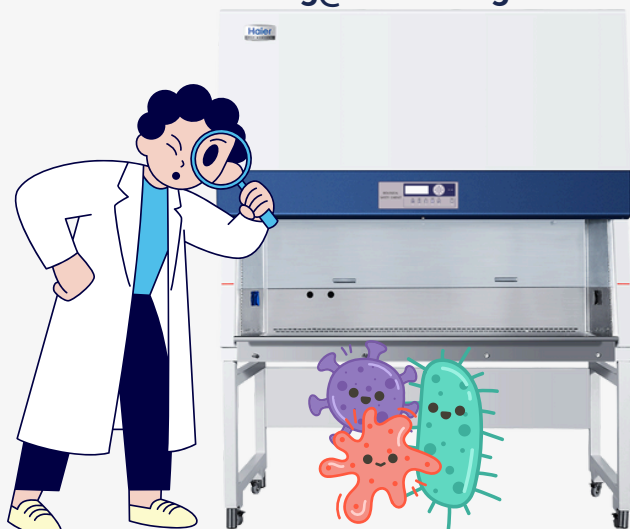
- 1 Do not put the isolate on automated identification systems or use kit systems to identify the agent. This will lead to staff exposures. 
- 2 Notify supervisor, lab director and infection Preventionist. 
- 3 Contact Public Health Laboratory (PHL) using call down list. 
- 4 Ship isolate to the Public Health Laboratory. The person packaging the material must be trained and certified to ship Dangerous Goods. 
- 5 Lock up any material retained in the laboratory that could contain the agent. 
- 6 Assess the work flow with the isolate from sample submission to the point all material was moved to a BSC to determine if any staff has been exposed.
- 7 Contact your employee health at your facility when exposures occur. The ADH Communicable Disease Department is available for additional guidance.
- 8 At this point, the lab is storing a suspect Bioterrorism/Select agent. The agent must be confirmed by an LRN Reference Laboratory. 


Last: Confirmed BT Agent


- 1 Destruction and Forms completion must be done within 7 days of the isolate being confirmed as a select agent. 
- 2 Destroy any retained samples, isolates or material that could contain the agent. Material can be destroyed by autoclaving or soaking in bleach for 24 hours.
- 3 The Public Health Laboratory (PHL) will advise on the forms that need to be completed to meet the Select Agent Program Regulations. 


Contact Info

Bioterrorism Coordinator: 501-352-9453
 Biosafety Officer: 501-352-9064
 Clinical Microbiology Lab: 501-837-9704
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 Form 4 A, Sections C and D will always need to be completed and the PHL will provide guidance if needed.

 If exposures have been identified, any work with the agent outside of the BSC is an exposure, Form 3 will need to be completed.

 If the isolate needed to be shipped to another facility after is has been confirmed as a select agent Form 2 must be completed and approved by CDC prior to shipping the material. Confirmed select agents can only be shipped to a registered select agent laboratory and by a limited number of commercial transporters.