



County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory Laboratory Response Network Send-Out Procedure

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (SLOPHL) is a participating reference laboratory of the national **Laboratory Response Network (LRN)**. SLOPHL is responsible for all LRN 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 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**. Samples can be sent **Category B Standard Overnight**. Alternatively, you can use a contracted courier to have the samples delivered to us.
3. SLOPHL will contact your local jurisdiction Public Health Laboratory to notify them that we are testing a suspect BT organism from their jurisdiction. SLOPHL will also send your local Public Health Laboratory a copy of the results once testing is complete.
4. Please send **ALL** plates, slants, blood culture bottles, etc. to SLOPHL. If the specimen tests positive for one of the organisms listed above, SLOPHL will destroy the organism and complete all necessary paperwork. If the specimen tests negative for the above organisms and an ID is requested, the plates and slants, etc. can be sent back to you so they can be sent to your regular reference laboratory **upon request**.
5. **NOTE:** Even though specimens can be shipped as **Category B specimens**, SLOPHL highly recommends that only personnel that have been certified for Packing and Shipping be responsible for the packing and shipping of the suspect agent.
6. Please fill out one of SLOPHL's requisitions and send it along with the isolate(s). If you don't have any, we can provide them to you.
7. If you have any questions, please contact us at **(805) 781-5510 Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm**. **After-hours, call (510) 205-8642** to reach our laboratory director, Dr. Glen Miller. **On weekends and holidays, please call (805) 305-8188** to speak to our on-call microbiologist.