SELECT AGENT TESTING AND REPORTING
For Clinical Laboratories

CCR, Title 17, Section 2505 requires laboratories to report laboratory testing results suggestive of the following diseases of public health importance to the local health department.

Subsection (e)(1) List – Select Agent Bacterial agents

- Anthrax, human or animal (B. anthracis)
- Botulism (Clostridium botulinum toxin)
- Brucellosis, human (all Brucella spp.)
- Burkholderia pseudomallei and B. mallei
- Plague, human or animal (Y. pestis)
- Tularemia, human (F. tularensis)

Clinical labs should notify the appropriate Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratory when a test request for one of the List (e)(1) Select Agent bacteria is made.

Before lab work is performed on these specimens, refer to the LRN Sentinel Level A Laboratory Clinical Microbiology Guidelines at https://www.asm.org/index.php/guidelines/sentinel-guidelines. Detailed microbiological information is given for each organism, and the work-up flowcharts for each suspect agent should be strictly adhered to in order to rule the agent in or out. This minimal lab work should take place only inside a Biosafety Cabinet.

When a preliminary identification of a suspected List (e)(1) Select Agent bacterium is made from a clinical specimen, work should cease. The lab supervisor should contact their LRN Reference Lab for guidance on confirmatory testing and submission procedures – prior to shipping the isolate. Those procedures are as follows:

- Call: Microbial Diseases Laboratory - High Risk Pathogens Section, (510) 412-3700, and Alameda County Public Health Laboratory, (510) 382-4300, ask for Supervisor or Director
- Provide information on the patient (including history and clinical summary)
- Provide results of all lab tests performed on the specimen and isolate

The state Microbial Disease Laboratory (MDL) is the LRN Level B Laboratory for Select Agents. If the suspicion is confirmed by MDL, the referring laboratory will be instructed to ship the isolate directly to the state MDL laboratory*. This not only expedites the definitive identification of the organism, but decreases the number of persons potentially exposed to the agent.

*Shipping package must be addressed: ATTN: High Risk Pathogens Section – Microbial Diseases Laboratory, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804.