

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## Guidance for Clinical Microbiology Laboratories on Isolate Submission

The CDPHE Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program requests clinical microbiology laboratories to send certain culture **isolates\*** to the CDPHE laboratory in addition to reporting **positive lab results**. The CDPHE laboratory performs additional testing on submitted isolates in order to identify outbreaks due to common strains or sub-types. These tests include: serotyping, serogrouping, and pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE).

CDPHE requests all clinical microbiology laboratories submit the following suspected or confirmed isolates to the CDPHE laboratory:

- *Bacillus anthracis*
- *Brucella* species
- *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*
- *Escherichia coli* O157 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*\*
- *Francisella tularensis*
- *Haemophilus influenzae* (normally sterile sites)
- *Neisseria meningitidis* (normally sterile sites)
- *Legionella* species
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Salmonella* species (including typhi and non-typhi species)
- *Shigella* species
- *Vibrio cholerae*
- *Vibrio non-cholera*
- Vancomycin-resistant (and intermediate) *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Yersinia pestis*

**\*If non-culture based methods are used to detect Shiga toxin or suspected *E. coli* O157, please forward inoculated broth or stool specimen to the CDPHE lab.**

In addition to the above organisms, laboratories located in the **five county Denver metropolitan area** (Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties) should submit:

Positive cultures from normally sterile sites:

- Group A streptococci
- Group B streptococci
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

5 counties listed above, plus Boulder and Broomfield counties – any positive culture:

- *Yersinia non-pestis*

**Isolate Submission:** For questions about isolate submission or shipping instructions, please call:  
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory -- 303-692-3480

To order supplies for shipping isolates, please call: Laboratory Supply Line -- 303-692-3074

**Disease Reporting:** To report a case, please call:

Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program -- 303-692-2700 or 1-800-866-2759

To report 24-hour reportable conditions on evenings or weekends, please call:

Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program after-hours number -- 303-370-9395

A list of conditions reportable by all laboratories is available by calling 303-692-2700, or online at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Lablist.pdf>

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