Wyoming Department of Health
Commit to your health.

Wyoming Public Health Laboratory

Combined Laboratories Facility
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COLLECTION PROTOCOL FOR CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULINUM

1. Specimen collection

Suspected foodborne botulism cases

- Suitable specimens for examination are serum, feces, vomitus, gastric contents, and suspected foods.
- Serum samples must be collected before antitoxin treatment. If H-BAT is administered, a repeat serum should be collected 24 hours after treatment.
- Ideally, 15 ml of serum should be obtained (without anticoagulant), 5 ml at minimum.
- Ideally, 10 to 20 g of feces should be collected. If an enema is needed, use sterile non-bacteriostatic water.
- Foods should be left in their original containers or placed in sterile unbreakable containers.
- Empty containers with remnants of suspected foods can also be recovered and submitted for testing.
- CDC does not test unopened commercial products, except with permission from FDA/ USDA.

Suspected wound botulism cases

Suitable specimens for examination are serum, debrided tissue, swab samples from wounds, and feces (to rule out foodborne botulism). Anaerobic cultures of tissue generated by the hospital, commercial, or other laboratory may also be submitted for identification.

Suspected infant botulism cases

Suitable specimens for examination are feces and rectal swabs. It is not necessary to collect serum samples from infant botulism cases, according to the recommendations from the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program.

Ideally, 10g to 20g of feces should be collected; however, smaller quantities can provide confirmatory test results as well. If an enema is needed, use sterile non-bacteriostatic water.

Potential sources (honey, opened formula, etc.) may also be examined.

2. Specimen shipment

- Please contact WPHL before sending specimens to CDC.
- Specimens should be maintained at 4° C and sent with cold packs.
- Complete a CDC form 50.34 and include it in package. Please make sure phone and fax numbers from the Wyoming Department of Health and the Hospital are included. The form is available at http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/index.html.

Send packages to:

STAT (Attn: Botulism Lab)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30329

- Package must have proper labeling for biological hazards: UN 3373 biological substance, Category B.
- Packages may arrive on weekends.

3. Select Agent requirements

- Any laboratory that identifies a select agent in a specimen is required to complete and submit an APHIS/CDC Form 4A. This requirement applies regardless of whether the entity is registered with the Select Agent Program. CDC is responsible for completing sections A and B of the Form 4A and for notifying the Wyoming Health Department. The sample provider (state health department and/or hospital) is responsible for completing and submitting sections C and D.
- Sample provider (state health department and/or hospital) should submit sections C and D to Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT), fax: (404) 718 2096, E-mail: CDCForm4@cdc.gov
- Please contact DSAT for questions concerning completion of APHIS/CDC Form 4A.

4. Contact information

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