



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

BUREAU OF LABORATORIES

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IDAHO SENTINEL LABORATORY NETWORK LAB UPDATE

October 3, 2014

UPDATED EBOLA AND ENTEROVIRUS D68 INFORMATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released interim guidance for laboratorians and other healthcare personnel who would handle specimens from patients suspected of having Ebola virus disease (EVD). This information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>. Below is EVD information pertinent to laboratorians within the Idaho Sentinel Laboratory Network (ISLN):

- Contact Idaho Division of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention (BCDP) with all suspected EVD cases **prior** to sample collection. During business hours, call 208-334-5939. After business hours, call 800-632-8000, and a public health official will be immediately contacted to assist you.
- Public health officials must contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center for consultation before samples can be submitted to an authorized testing laboratory. Samples may be sent to a designated LRN-B laboratory or the CDC, whichever option allows for the fastest turnaround time.
- The CDC has developed a printable lab guidance document for specimen collection, transport, testing, and submission for patients with suspected EVD infection, which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-lab-guidance.pdf>.
- A minimum volume of two 4 mL of whole blood preserved with EDTA is preferred. Specimens must be submitted to CDC in a plastic blood tube; do not ship containers in glass tubes.
- Specimens should be packaged following the basic triple packaging system when shipping for testing.
- CDC also has provided interim guidance regarding compliance with select agent regulations for laboratories: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/select-agent-regulations.html>.

Contact Idaho Bureau of Laboratories with any laboratory-related EVD questions: Robert Voermans (voermanr@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-2235 ext. 255) or Michael Stevenson (stevensm@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-2235 ext. 269).

IBL is receiving an influx of calls regarding Enterovirus D68. Below are key points to frequently asked questions:

- Until further notice, please refer only specimens from severely ill, hospitalized children that test positive Enterovirus to IBL.
- IBL will forward Enterovirus positive specimens that meet the above requirements to CDC for molecular subtyping to determine if Enterovirus D68 is the cause of infection.
- Due to a high testing demand at CDC sample results may be substantially delayed. Samples previously sent from IBL have had a 3 week turnaround time.
- CDC is requesting that the submitting hospitals, doctors, or clinical laboratories complete the following two forms: [CDC Submission Form](#) and [CDC Enterovirus D68 Patient Summary Form](#).

Please contact Vonnita Barton (bartonv@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-2235 ext. 230) or Kari Getz (getzk@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-2235 ext. 229) if you have questions about sending specimens for Enterovirus D68 subtyping.

Message Categories

Lab Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Lab Advisory: important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Lab Update: updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.