



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

BUREAU OF LABORATORIES

www.statelab.idaho.gov

IDAHO SENTINEL LABORATORY NETWORK LAB ADVISORY

October 17, 2014

EBOLA REFERRAL PROCESS AND PACKAGING AND SHIPPING INFORMATION

Clinicians must contact Idaho Division of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention (BCDP) with all suspected Ebola virus disease (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.

If samples are advised to be collected, your hospital will be directed where to send them. **Samples must be shipped Category A and labeled on the exterior packaging and Shipper's Declaration form as "Suspected Category A Infectious Substance."** IBL cannot currently test for EVD. CDC will provide guidance on shipment locations.

Clinical laboratories need to have the ability, certification, and authorization to ship Division 6.2 Infectious Substances and obtain Category A shipping materials prior to collecting specimens for EVD testing. If your facility does not have the capability or access to individuals authorized to ship Division 6.2 Infections Substances, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a two hour online training course free of charge. Please visit their website for more information:

http://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/course_listing/packing_shipping.html.

Individuals must complete the following training to be certified to ship Category A and Category B Infectious Substances:

- General awareness/familiarization training: fulfilled by the online CDC training
- Function-specific training: fulfilled by the online CDC training
- Safety training (how to safety handle division 6.2 hazardous materials): can be met with an OSHA approved bloodborne pathogens training and should be completed annually; we advise you to also complete any specific safety training your facility may provide.
- Security risk awareness training: this requirement can be met with completion of facility-specific security awareness training or a general HazMat Digipack 7.2 CD training. Please contact Wendy Loumeau at loumeauw@dhw.idaho.gov for copies of this CD.

The requirements in the preceding list must be documented and available should your facility be inspected by a regulatory agency. IBL recommends maintaining a documentation binder for all certified shippers in a readily accessible central location. The employer is responsible for verifying the training and certificate, maintaining training records, and providing an authorization letter for the shipment of Dangerous Goods. At IBL, this is done with an authorization letter from our laboratory director.

IBL has a limited supply of Category A shipping materials and can provide them to laboratories upon request. Requesting laboratories must send certification and authorization documentation before IBL can provide the materials.

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).

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.