

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\BI\01\v01	Page 4 of 9
Bioterrorism Procedure Manual		

Table 1. Specimens to be Collected for Detection of Possible Agents of Bioterrorism

Suspected Agent	Site / Route of Infection	Specimens ¹
Bacteria:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (Anthrax) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhalation / Pneumonic Cutaneous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood culture, Sputum, ± CSF Swab / aspirate of cutaneous lesion or vesicular fluid, Blood culture Blood culture, Stool Nasal Swab *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (Tularemia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gastrointestinal Exposed Individual Pneumonic Cutaneous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood culture, Sputum, Bronchial washings Lymph nodes, Wound swab / aspirate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Brucella</i> spp. (Brucellosis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood culture, Bone marrow, ± Spleen, ± Liver, Abscess material Acute & Convalescent serum (21 to 28 days apart) (Red top tube, 10 ml)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Yersinia pestis</i> (Plague) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pneumonic Systemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood culture, Sputum, Bronchial washings Above ± Spleen, ± Liver, ± Bubo aspirate
Toxin:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botulism toxin (Botulism) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic / neurologic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serum (Red top tube, 10 ml) Vomit / Gastric contents, stool, tissue or Wound anaerobic swab Food Samples
Virus:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variola virus (Smallpox) E 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutaneous lesions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vesicular fluid, Lesion biopsy, Lesion scabs/ scrapings

¹All specimens can be transported to the lab at room temperature EXCEPT:

- Specimens for Variola virus should be kept at 4°C (refrigerated) or frozen at -20°C or lower;
- Specimens for botulism toxin should be kept at 4°C (refrigerated)

* Nasal swab is useful only for outbreak investigation and will be processed only if ordered by the Public Health department.

EThe MOH must be immediately notified of any case of suspect smallpox. Prior to sending any specimen to PHL, one of the Medical Microbiologists must be notified. All specimens for suspect smallpox will be forwarded to NML in Winnipeg. This a a level IV agent!