

General Specimen Submission Instructions

1. Services provided by the Microbial Diseases Laboratory (MDL) supplement the diagnostic and reference service of the local public health laboratories. Local health departments should be prepared to supply necessary containers, forms, and information to laboratories and physicians in their jurisdiction.
2. Contact MDL before collecting and submitting specimens as needed.
3. Complete appropriate MDL specimen submission form, including required patient personal information, specimen nature, and clinical data. Failure to do so may delay testing.
4. Send by mail, or by more rapid means of transport as needed. Observe proper packaging and labeling requirements mandated by Federal Regulations.
5. Applicable shipping and packaging regulations should be followed. If refrigeration (or freezing) is required, be sure refrigerant is adequate for time in transit. Indicate on outside of package if it is to be refrigerated or frozen upon arrival at MDL.
6. All specimens, with the exception of those for serological testing, to be sent to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) must be submitted through MDL unless otherwise indicated. See the web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/index.html> for the form (Form 50.34.pdf) to be used for submission. Enter the following information in the STATE PHL/ MDL submitter box in the form:

E-mail:	CDPHMDLDCDCReports@cdph.ca.gov
Name:	Dr. Vishnu Chaturvedi
Institution Name:	CDPH-Microbial Diseases Laboratory
Street address:	850 Marina Bay Parkway
City:	Richmond
State:	California
ZIP/Postal Code:	94804
Phone:	510-412-3700
FAX:	510-412-3706

All required information must accompany the specimen(s).

*Serums submitted for patient antibody testing by the CDC should be submitted through the local public health laboratory for forwarding to the CDC unless otherwise indicated. Please notify MDL by faxing a copy of both sides of your completed CDC DASH form to the MDL at 510-412-3706.

7. Potential Bioterrorism Agent Protocol:
 - Notify the nearest FBI Field Office immediately when suspected cases and environmental exposure situations arise (California locations: Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco). Contact your local Public Health Laboratory or MDL for assistance in obtaining LRN Level B testing.

Potential bioterrorism agents include:

Bacillus anthracis, Burkholderia pseudomallei/ Burkholderia mallei, Brucella species (B. abortus, B. melitensis, B. suis), Francisella tularensis, Yersinia pestis, Botulinum neurotoxin producing species of Clostridium, Botulinum neurotoxin
8. Follow other instructions related to specific test as indicated in *Services and Test Catalog*.