

Summary of Laboratory Resources Related to Bioterrorism (BT) Agents

(Modified 12/06/01)

Stanford Clinical Microbiology/Virology Laboratory

- I. We are a Level A Laboratory (includes most primary diagnostic laboratories, including Stanford – Biological Safety Level 2 facility):
 - A. Culture specimens from patients with disease suspicious for BT agents (including bacteria: *B. anthracis*, *Y. pestis*, *F. tularensis*, and *Brucella*; and viruses: smallpox and hemorrhagic viruses)
 - B. Using gram stain, cultures and other tests, detect and presumptively identify any of the BT agents, whether initially suspected or an incidental finding. In other words, perform tests to “rule out” non-BT agents.
 - C. Properly inform authorities of suspected agent and send it on to Level B or C laboratories for confirmation.
 - D. We would NOT perform susceptibilities at this laboratory.
 - E. Timeline from receipt of specimen in laboratory – from 3 (minimum) to 7 days before we could report out “presumptive BT agent”.
 - F. Based on CDC and California State Laboratory directives, we do NOT accept specimens from asymptomatic patients for screening.
 - G. We would NOT accept suspicious materials or environmental samples for screening – those should be handled by the County and local/national law enforcement authorities.

- II. Level B laboratories (Santa Clara County Health Department is our Level B lab – Biological Safety Level 2/3)
 - A. Perform additional tests to “rule in” suspected BT agent, then transport suspected BT agents to the California State laboratory (Level C).
 - B. Coordinate investigation of suspicious materials and environmental samples.
 - C. Perform or coordinate rapid initial testing of persons or environments at risk.
 - D. Timeline from receipt of material into their hands until final report – 2 day estimate.

- III. Level C laboratory (California State Lab in Berkeley & Richmond – Biological Safety Level 3)
 - A. Perform additional “rule in” tests, rapid tests, screening of samples and environmental materials.
 - B. Perform susceptibilities on BT agents.