



## Send-Out Protocol

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (SLOPHL) is a participating reference laboratory of the national **Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats (LRN-B)**. SLOPHL is responsible for all LRN testing (principally Bioterrorism [BT] agent testing) in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. Please follow the recommended guidelines listed below when you suspect you have recovered one of the following organisms or have conducted testing that does not rule out:

- *Bacillus anthracis* or *B. cereus* biovar *anthracis*
- *Brucella species*
- *Francisella tularensis*
- *Yersinia pestis*
- *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
- *Burkholderia mallei*

### Send-Out Guidelines:

1. Contact **SLOPHL** at **(805) 781-5510** to notify one of the Microbiologists of your suspect organism.
2. We currently recommend shipping specimens via **FedEx. Clinical specimens/isolates should be sent Category B** (Standard Overnight). Alternatively, you can use your contracted courier to have the samples delivered to us. We can also arrange for our courier to pick up the specimen.
3. SLOPHL will contact your local jurisdiction Public Health Laboratory to notify them that we are testing a suspect BT organism from their jurisdiction. SLOPHL will also send your local Public Health Laboratory a copy of the results once testing is complete.
4. Please send **ALL** plates, slants, blood culture bottles, etc. to SLOPHL. If the specimen tests positive for one of the organisms listed above, SLOPHL will destroy the organism and complete all necessary paperwork. If the specimen tests negative for the above organisms and an ID is requested, the plates and slants, etc. can be sent back to you or SLOPHL can work up the isolate **upon request**.
5. **NOTE:** It is highly recommended that only personnel that have been certified for Packing and Shipping be responsible for the packing and shipping of the suspect agent.
6. Please fill out one of SLOPHL's requisition and send it along with the isolate(s). A copy of the blank requisition (Requisition #100) is available on our website.
7. If you have any questions, please contact us at **(805) 781-5510 Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. After hours, call (510) 205-8642** to reach our laboratory director, Dr. Glen Miller. **On weekends and holidays, please call (805) 305-8188** to speak to our on-call microbiologist.