



Clostridium botulinum	
Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Yes: Botulism is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	Responsibility of laboratory is to advise medical staff on specimen selection, packaging/shipping and notifying recipient laboratory of suspected case.
Required Information:	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION Requisition form: PDF
Specimen Requirements:	Stool, enema fluid, gastric aspirate, serum, nasal swab, food and environmental samples. Contact HETL if an organism is isolated that resembles C. botulinum
Collection Instructions:	Stool or gastric aspirate > Collect 10-50 g into a sterile, leak proof container Enema fluid > Collect 20 cc of fluid, purge with minimum of sterile water Serum > Collect 10 cc Nasal Swab > Recommended for aerosolized release Food > Collect 10-50 g Place original container into another leak proof container Environmental samples > Recommended for intentional release of BT agent
Specimen Handling and Transport:	All specimens excluding the nasal swab should be kept refrigerated. Transport at 4°C using cold packs. Keep nasal swaps at room temperature. For faster turn around time to obtain results, consider hand delivery to HETL. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B
Turn Around Time:	Toxin results are available 24-48 hours after receipt Culture results may need 7-10 days
<i>MeCDC Epidemiologists only</i>	Critical events may require direct shipment of specimens to CDC-Atlanta. Call HETL at 207-287-2727 for assistance
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include:	Toxin: Positive or Negative for botulinum toxin, Type A, B, E, or F Culture: Clostridium botulinum found or not found.
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	With prior authorization from Maine CDC epidemiologist, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient.
Applicable CPT Codes:	N/A
Additional Information:	For Clostridium botulinum specific questions contact Maine HETL - Bacti at 207-287-1704