

For questions about a disease outbreak or notifiable conditions, please call

Maine CDC- Disease Reporting

HOW TO REPORT:

TELEPHONE: **OR** **FAX:**
1-800-821-5821 **1-800-293-7534**
(24 hours a day) **(24 hours a day)**

Influenza A/H5 or Novel Influenza Testing

Consult with Infectious Disease Epidemiology – Maine CDC
1-800-821-5821

As soon as a suspect/possible case has been identified

- For direction on whether a patient should be tested
- For infection control measures
- For information on current sampling guidelines and specimen transport
- For immediate coordination with laboratory

For a full test catalog, specific specimen collection instructions, test kit order forms, arboviral surveillance forms and an electronic version of this requisition form, please visit:

www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab

Reportable Diseases Requiring Submission to HETL:
Organisms/Conditions in BOLD are possible indicators of bioterrorism

Any Outbreak of unusual disease/illness

Bacillus anthracis
Brucella species
Bordetella pertussis
Clostridium botulinum
Clostridium tetani
Corynebacterium diphtheria
Coxiella species
Escherichia coli 0157:H7
Escherichia coli – shiga toxin producing – all serotypes
Francisella species
Gram positive rod septicemia or meningitis, growth within 72 hours
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive
Listeria species
Measles virus (Rubeola)
Mumps virus
M. tuberculosis complex

Neisseria meningitidis
Novel Influenza virus(untypeable)
Rabies virus
RICIN poisoning
Rubella virus
Salmonella species
SARS (Coronavirus)
Shigella species
Smallpox virus
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B pulmonary poisoning
Toxoplasma gondii
Venezuelan equine encephalitis
Vibrio species
Yersinia pestis

For a full list of **Notifiable Conditions**, please visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/disease-reporting/index.shtml

Specimen types, storage and shipping conditions:

- General test kits are available from HETL for PCR, Viral Culture, Serology and Mycobacteriology.
- Specific test kits are available for **Blood Lead**, **Bordetella species PCR, including B. pertussis**, **Chlamydia/Gonorrhea amplified probe**, and **QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus test**.
- Specific instructions for specimen collection are available at www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab
- Test kits include sampling materials and instructions as well as packing materials and shipping containers for couriers or US Mail.
- To order test kits please call 207-287-2727 or fax order to 207-287-8925

ARBOVIRUS TESTING

ALL specimens submitted for Arboviral testing must be accompanied by the Arboviral Submission Form before testing will be performed.

PCR/VIRAL CULTURE

- Collect specimens promptly (ideally within 1-3 days of onset)
- Use polyester/Dacron swabs and viral transport medium (VTM) – **No wooden shaft**
- Urine or stool specimens: Send in sterile, leak proof containers. Small amount of stool (pea sized) can also be added to VTM.
- **Store specimens at refrigerator temp. and ship on frozen gel packs.**

Viral Culture Reflex Test for PCR:

- If selected PCR test is negative, routine culture will be performed to detect other viruses. Confirmation will be charged accordingly.
- Minimum of 1.0mL of spinal fluid is required to perform PCR and viral culture

SEROLOGY

Blood should be collected without anticoagulants or preservatives

- 5ml for an adult or 3ml for pediatric patients is sufficient volume
- Do not freeze blood specimens
- It is best to physically separate serum from the blood clot within 24 hours or centrifuge in serum separator tube prior to submission.
- HIV-1/HIV-2 confirmation is automatically ordered for HIV+ screen and will be billed accordingly.
- Use only HETL kits to collect specimens for **Quantiferon®-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus test)**

MYCOBACTERIOLOGY

- 5ml is the recommended minimum sample volume for AFB recovery
- Respiratory specimens and other body fluids - collect in sterile container
- Bone marrow and blood - collect in heparin (green top) tube
- Tissue biopsy and bone - collect in sterile container with 1-2ml distilled H₂O or saline
- Gastric aspirate- neutralize 5-10 ml with sodium carbonate within 1 hour of collection

BACTERIOLOGY

- Chlamydia/Gonorrhea amplified probe tests **REQUIRE** GenProbe collection tubes (available from HETL – call 207-287-2727)
- Shiga toxin positive broths should be sent for confirmation and serotyping
- Pertussis PCR swabs should be dry
- Isolates sent for identification should include prior lab results

BLOOD LEAD

- Minimum of 300uL whole blood
- Heparin (green top) or EDTA (purple top) tubes are acceptable
- Sodium Citrate (light blue top) is **NOT** acceptable
- Capillary specimens with high levels will require venous confirmation
- Check **No Insurance** box **ONLY** if patient does **not** have insurance or MaineCare to cover blood lead testing

CSF PANEL

- **Minimum of 1.5mL of spinal fluid is required** to perform CSF Panel and reflex to Arbovirus Panel if all PCR tests are negative.