

Bioterrorism/Chemical Terrorism Procedures on www.nphl.org

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Bioterrorism and chemical terrorism procedures, along with related information are now available on our website (www.nphl.org). The procedures were developed by the CDC and the ASM. The bioterrorism procedures listed are meant to be used by **Sentinel** (Nebraska Laboratory Network *Level-A* and *Level-B*) laboratories. The procedures described function to “recognize and rule-out or refer” bioterrorism agents from clinical specimens. Those isolates that cannot be ruled-out and are hence presumptively identified as bioterrorism agents or special pathogens should be referred to the NPHL for confirmatory testing.

Select Agent information is also available (See *Reporting the Identification of a Select Agent or Toxin in a Clinical or Diagnostic Laboratory* article on page 1).

The chemical terrorism information on the web site is intended for all clinical laboratories in Nebraska. This information, developed by the CDC, details how clinical specimens (blood and urine) should be collect from patients in a real or suspected chemical terrorism event. In addition to specimen collection information, packaging guidelines and supporting documentation including a chain-of-custody and shipping manifest forms are included. These reference documents are meant to direct laboratorians during a suspected event when collecting human specimens.

Look for NPHL to offer chemical terrorism laboratory preparedness training sessions in the future. Please contact Josh Rowland (402-559-6070, jrowland@unmc.edu) if you have questions.