### Specimen Type

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Collection Time</th>
<th>Collection Frequency</th>
<th>Collection Procedures</th>
<th>Transport Media</th>
<th>Shipping &amp; Handling (S&amp;H)**</th>
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| Pure culture/Isolated colony          | NA              | NA                   | Use nutrient agar plate / slant.                                                        | NA              | • **Transport device:** See Collection Procedures.  
|                                       |                 |                      | • Unroof vesicle and aspirate fluid, or collect with two sterile swabs.                 |                 | • **Transport:** Ship specimens at room temperature.  
|                                       |                 |                      | • Only use synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft     |                 | • **Storage:** Room temperature.  
|                                       |                 |                      | for collection.                                                                        |                 |                             |  
|                                       |                 |                      | • Insert swab (dacron) beneath the edge of the eschar, rotate swab or obtain an         |                 |                             |  
|                                       |                 |                      | aspirate.                                                                              |                 |                             |  
| Cutaneous:                            | At illness      | NA                   | Collect stool (> 5 grams) into a leak-proof sealed container.                          | NA              | • **Transport device:** Sterile leak-proof container.  
| o Vesicular (early) stage             |                 |                      | • **Transport:** Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.  
| o Eschar (late) stage                 |                 |                      | • **Storage:** Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.  
| Gastro-intestinal                    |                 | NA                   | Collect Cerebral Spinal Fluid (> 1ml); only if signs of meningitis occur.             | NA              | • **Transport device:** Sterile leak-proof container.  
| Inhalational                          |                 |                      | • **Transport:** Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.                                       |                 | • **Transport:** Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.  
|                                       |                 |                      | • **Storage:** Refrigerate at 2-8°C.                                                   |                 | • **Storage:** Refrigerate at 2-8°C.  
| Postmortem Tissue                     | NA              | NA                   | Collect tissue pieces into a sterile container, and keep moist.                       | NA              | • **Transport device:** Sterile leak-proof container.  
|                                       |                 |                      | • **Transport:** Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.  
|                                       |                 |                      | • **Storage:** Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.  

(Additional Specimen Types on page 2)

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  

Last Revised: March 2015
## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

**Bacillus anthracis** (Anthrax) (Version 1)

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| Whole blood / Serum (PCR only) | ≤4 days post symptom onset | NA                  | Collect into lavender-top EDTA collection tubes.           | NA              | • Transport device: Lavender-top EDTA tube.  
  • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.  
  • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Sputum          | At illness. For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset | NA                  | Collect expectorated specimen into a sterile container.     | NA              | • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container.  
  • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.  
  • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. |

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  
 **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  
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*Bacillus anthracis* (Anthrax) (Version 1)
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**General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Swab on wooden shaft.
- Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

**NOTE:**
Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

**Collection kit availability**

Not available.

**Comments**