



VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS

Protocol Overview and Methods:

The causative agents of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers are a family of viruses that are known to cause severe, frequently fatal human infections. They are also known to cause aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections. These viruses (examples: Ebola, Lassa, Marburg, etc.) require BioSafety Level 4 facilities for analysis.

Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL) does not possess BioSafety Level 4 facilities for analysis of viral hemorrhagic fevers. DPHL will ship specimens to CDC for testing.

Contact Information:

DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours. Please indicate the nature of the call so that notification to DPHL is not delayed.

Authorization for Specimen Submittal:

Authorization for laboratory specimen submittal must be given by the DPHL Director, DPHL Deputy Director, or Bioterrorism Coordinator.

Specimens:

Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens, materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. All forms are available on the DPHL website: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/labs.html>.

Acceptable specimens for testing include:

- Collect 10-12 cc of serum (red/black top tube). This specimen will be shipped to CDC as DPHL does not perform any testing for viral hemorrhagic fevers.

Contact DPHL for detailed information (BT Specimen Collection Chart).

Handling of Specimens:

- a. Biosafety practices: Latex or similar gloves should be worn while collecting specimen(s). Other personal protective equipment should be used as necessary. For suspected aerosols, a respirator should be worn.
- b. Specimens must be kept at 2-8°C until delivered to the laboratory. Blood culture bottles must always remain at room temperature until they are received by the laboratory.



- Packaging Instructions:**
- a. Clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers and submitted to DPHL. DPHL will ship the specimens to CDC for testing.
 - b. Receiving specimens at DPHL: Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present a government issued ID and have chain of custody forms completed.
 - i. Other Information: For locations of courier pick-up sites, specimen submission forms, and other information see the DPHL website at <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/lab/labs.html>.

- Reporting Results:**
- a. CDC will notify DPHL upon completion of tests.
 - b. Notification Procedure: Upon confirmation by the CDC, the Laboratory Director, Deputy Laboratory Director or Bioterrorism Coordinator will notify the submitter of test results.