



Q-FEVER

- Agent Overview:** The causative agent of Q-Fever is a rickettsia named *Coxiella burnetti*.
- Lab Specimen Submittal:** Authorization for laboratory specimen submittal must be given by Dr. Jane Getchell, Director DPHL; Christina Pleasanton, Deputy Director DPHL; or Debra Rutledge, Bioterrorism Coordinator.
- Types of Specimens Necessary for Testing:**
- Clinical specimen for PCR: Acceptable PCR specimens are blood (EDTA, purple-top tube) or serum (red/black top tube).
- Environmental testing PCR: Use two dry Dacron swabs (not cotton) to collect specimen and put in two separate sterile tubes.
- Please reference the BT Specimen Collection Chart for more detailed information.**
- Packaging Instructions:**
- Clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers and outside of container decontaminated (10% bleach).
- Environmental specimens must be double bagged and the outside of the bag decontaminated (10% bleach).
- Receiving Specimens at DPHL:** Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and have proper forms completed.
- Handling of Specimens:** Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens or materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Clinical and food specimens should be kept at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory. Environmental samples may be sent at room temperature until delivered to the laboratory.
- Reporting Results:** Preliminary: A preliminary report is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 4 to 24 hours. PCR results must be confirmed by CDC.
- Contact Information:** Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL Director: 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).