



## STAPHYLOCOCCAL ENTEROTOXIN B (SEB)

- Agent Overview:** Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B (SEB) is an exotoxin produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*, a gram-positive cocci that form in clumps. SEB is the most common toxin related to foodborne illnesses. Although SEB is not considered a lethal agent, it can cause significant morbidity.
- 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:** Environmental testing for Time-resolved fluorescence (TRF): swabs, plant material, powder, water, or soil – at least 2 grams of specimen in a leak-proof container, **non-glass**.  
Food or drink specimen testing for TRF: at least 2 grams of food in leak-proof container, **non-glass**.  
**Please reference the BT Specimen Collection Chart for more detailed information.**
- Packaging Instructions:** **Do not collect samples in containers made of glass. If possible, avoid collection from any glass surface.**  
Environmental specimens must be double bagged and the outside of the bag decontaminated (10% bleach).  
Food and drink specimens must be sent in leak-proof containers stored at 2-8°C.
- 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. Environmental samples may be sent at room temperature. Store food or drink specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
- Reporting Results:** Preliminary: A preliminary positive or negative test result may be issued upon completion of TRF. TRF results can take up to 12 hours.  
Negative: A negative TRF result is reported 12 to 24 hours after initial set up.  
Positive: A TRF Preliminary positive will be reported in less than 12 hours. Confirmation by the CDC/LRN is needed.  
Notification procedure: Laboratory Director, Deputy Laboratory Director or Bioterrorism Coordinator will notify the submitter of test results. The Bioterrorism Call Log and Information form will provide information for notification of testing results outside of the DPHL.
- Contact Information:** Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL Director: 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage)

**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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