



TULAREMIA

Protocol Overview and Methods:

The causative agent of Tularemia is the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*, a small, aerobic non-motile, gram-negative coccobacillus. This fastidious organism requires special media and grows slowly, needing 48 to 72 hours of incubation at 35–37°C before growth can be detected.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL) can test for *Francisella tularensis* using culture and molecular real time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) methods.

- Culture methods are used to grow the organism on agar plates. Biochemical testing and other methods can be performed to rule out or confirm *Francisella tularensis*.
- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from *Francisella tularensis* are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. **Any positive qPCR result is considered preliminary until a positive culture result is obtained.**

Contact Information:

DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For More Information:

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>