



CHLORINE

I. Protocol Overview

Chlorine (CL), classified as a choking/pulmonary agent, is a gas at room temperature, but can be converted into a liquid for shipment and storage. Chlorine gas is irritating and corrosive to the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. Exposure to chlorine may cause burning of the eyes, nose, and throat, cough, and airway constriction, edema of the airway and lungs, and death.

Chlorine is commonly used in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), aerosol propellants (such as CFCs), lubricants, insecticides, refrigerants, chlorination of pools, household bleaching agents, and plastic foams.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

There is no specific biomarker to measure chlorine exposure in clinical samples. Chlorine can be detected in environmental samples through the use of hand-held assays, wet chemical test kits, and sensors. In food samples, chlorine is indirectly measured through test kits and sensors. Rapid toxicological screen may rule out other potential exposures.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

II. Contact Information

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

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

III. CDC Website

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/arsine/casedef.asp>