

New PROTOCOLS/PROCEDURES Page on www.nphl.org

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A new page has been developed for the NPHL website (www.nphl.org) that will be a repository for protocols and procedures. Bioterrorism agent reference procedures will be the primary type of document on the new page. The procedures listed are meant to be used by Sentinel (Nebraska Laboratory Network *Level-A* and *Level-B*) Laboratories. The procedures were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Society of Microbiology (ASM). The procedures described function to rule out or presumptively identify bioterrorism agents from clinical specimens. Those isolates that cannot be ruled out should be referred to the NPHL for confirmatory testing. Procedures currently on the webpage include:

From the CDC

Bacillus anthracis, *Brucella* spp., *Clostridium botulinum* toxin,
Francisella tularensis, and *Yersinia pestis*

From the ASM

Burkholderia mallei, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
Coxiella burnetii, Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B, and
Unknown Viruses

It should be noted that clinical laboratories should not attempt to perform toxin analysis, or culture specimens suspected of containing an unknown virus or *Coxiella burnetii*, these specimens should be referred to the NPHL. In addition, if a Smallpox Virus, Filovirus, Arenavirus, Alphavirus, or Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus is suspected, contact public health officials (see CONTACT US on www.nphl.org) before specimen collection.

Please go to <http://www.nphl.org/news.html> to download the protocols. If you have questions, please contact Tony Sambol (asambol@unmc.edu, 402-559-3032).