

Services Available at U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Collaboration between local, state and federal laboratories provides the foundation for a successful nationwide program for the prevention and control of infectious diseases. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides state laboratories with reference and diagnostic services (RDS) for certain rare or unusual procedures.

All RDS samples must be submitted to the CDC by or through the state laboratories. CDC provides RDS for:

- Clinical samples to aid in the diagnosis of life-threatening, unusual or exotic infectious diseases.
- Cultures, paired serum samples or both from patients suspected of having unusual or infectious diseases.
- Cultures or serum samples obtained from patients who have sporadic infections or who are involved in an outbreak from an organism for which testing reagents are not commercially or widely available.
- Organisms that
 - a) cannot be identified.
 - b) are isolated from normally sterile anatomic sites.
 - c) are isolated repeatedly from one or more sites of the same patient or group of patients.
 - d) have atypical phenotypic characteristics.
 - e) do not appear to be a “usual” pathogen.
 - f) are associated with nosocomial infections.
- Clinically important serum samples or cultures sent for confirmation.

Inquiries concerning these tests should be directed to the Division of Infectious Disease, Communicable Disease Control Section within the Illinois Department of Public Health, phone 217-782-2016. It will request additional specimens as indicated. Prior contact is especially important when requesting *Clostridium botulinum*, *Escherichia coli 0157:H7* or *Staphylococcus aureus* referrals to CDC.

CDC form 50.34, see Appendix E, must be completed to provide an accurate clinical history. The CDC may reject the specimen if complete data are not provided.