Overview

- Understand existing state laboratory roles and responsibilities
- Aware of field sampling and packaging protocols for an epidemiological investigation

NOTE - Those who are certified in packaging and shipping and who routinely pack and ship diagnostic specimens should be assigned this responsibility in a disaster response

The Laboratory Response Network (LRN)

Nationwide network of Federal and State public health laboratories, working closely with private labs
Performs testing according to established protocols
Provides timely and accurate testing and reporting
Links local, state, and federal agencies
Provides emergency response 24/7
State Laboratories –
Roles and Responsibilities
Florida Department of Health

Responsibility:
• Florida's public health system

Testing Capabilities:
• Clinical samples
• Environmental samples

Locations:
• Jacksonville
• Miami
• Tampa
• Pensacola
• Lantana

BT Agent Sample Analysis:
• Jacksonville
• Miami
• Tampa

Testing Capabilities
Florida Department of Health

• Pathogenic microbial and viral
• Serological
• Food pathogens
• Tuberculosis
• Parasites
• Molecular typing
• Water, air, human and environmental chemical analysis
• Pesticides
• Newborn screening
• Mycology

The Florida Department of Health's Laboratory Services web page provides more information
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/laboratoryservices.htm
Click on Analytic Services for a complete listing of DOH laboratory services
State Laboratories –
Roles and Responsibilities

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Responsibility:
• Safeguard the public and support Florida’s agricultural economy

Testing Capabilities:
• Environmental Samples

Locations:
• Kissimmee

* Would be able to assist DOH in BT testing by providing microbiologists, consultation, equipment loans, and support staff for logistics

Testing Capabilities

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

• Food microbiology
• Chemical and physical analysis of foods
• Identification of food adulterants and pathogens
• Molecular biology & chemistry
• Metals
• Analysis of chemical residues (pesticides, antibiotics, other)
• Animal feeds
• Animal clinical microbiology
• Toxicology
• Clinical and gross pathology/histopathology
• Microbiology and nutrient content of milk and other dairy products and frozen desserts

Testing Capabilities (continued)

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

• Water and environmental pesticide monitoring
• Analysis of pesticide product formulations and tank mixes
• Fertilizer nutrients and micronutrients in formulations or environmental samples
• Seed germination
• Seed identification
• Arthropod identification
• Plant disease diagnosis
• Limited pesticide analysis
• Coliforms
• Water quality testing
• Shellfish tissue testing
• Analysis & testing of gasoline and other petroleum products
• Calibration of all measurement devices used in commerce
State Laboratories – Roles and Responsibilities

Department of Environmental Protection

Responsibility:
• Conserving Florida’s natural resources

Testing Capabilities:
• Environmental Samples

Locations:
• Tallahassee
• 1 satellite laboratory
• 7 smaller district laboratories

* Would be able to assist DOH in BT testing by providing consultation, equipment loans, and support staff for logistics

Testing Capabilities

Department of Environmental Protection

• Full service organic and inorganic chemical testing
• Air monitoring
• Bioassays
• Biological identifications
• Environmental and microbiology field sampling

State Laboratories – Roles and Responsibilities

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Responsibility:
• Statewide law enforcement agency that offers a wide range of investigative and technical services to local criminal justice agencies.

Testing Capabilities:
• Environmental Samples

Locations:
• Tallahassee
• Pensacola
• Tampa
• Jacksonville
• Orlando
• Daytona Beach
• Ft. Myers

* Would be able to assist DOH in BT testing by providing support staff for logistics.
Testing Capabilities
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

- DNA analysis
- Latent fingerprint identification
- Firearms/toolmark identification
- Toxicology
- Controlled substance analysis
- Computer evidence recovery
- Crime scene analysis
- Trace evidence analysis

Geographical Areas of DOH Testing Responsibility

- Jacksonville Laboratory
- Pensacola Laboratory
- West Palm Beach Laboratory

*Not yet accepting samples.

Jacksonville Laboratory
Department of Health
1217 Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel: 904-791-1500
After Hours: 904-750-0640

Tampa Laboratory
Department of Health
3602 Spectrum Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612
Tel: 813-974-8000
After Hours: 813-883-5929

Miami Laboratory
Department of Health
1325 N.W. 14th Avenue
Miami, FL 33125
Tel: 305-324-2432
After Hours: 305-366-9139

*Not yet accepting samples.
Geographical Areas of DOH Testing Responsibility (continued)

Pensacola Laboratory
50 West Maxwell Street-32501
P.O. Box 2666
Pensacola, FL 32513
Tel: 850-595-8895
FAX: 850-438-7922

West Palm Beach Laboratory
A.G. Holley Complex
East End, Lantana Road
P. O. Box 3738, Lantana, FL 33462
Tel: 561-540-1170
FAX: 561-540-1172

Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist

All primary receptacles (i.e., blood tubes, sample vials, etc.) have positive closures, such as screw-on, snap-on or push-on caps/lids
• Screw-on caps are wrapped with Parafilm or adhesive tape

Each primary receptacle is labeled with the patient's name and the date the sample was collected
• If a computer-generated label is affixed to the primary receptacle, it is placed directly over the manufacturer's label to allow the sample to be viewed through the receptacle

NOTE - Those who are certified in packaging and shipping and who routinely pack and ship diagnostic specimens should be assigned this responsibility in a disaster response

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/PDF_Files/Diag_Spec_P_and_S_Check_List_0422051.pdf

Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

For liquid specimens, the primary receptacle is leak-proof and contains a maximum of 500 milliliters (17 ounces)
• When shipped by air, the primary or secondary receptacles are able to withstand, without leakage, an internal pressure producing a pressure differential of not less than 95 kPa in the range of - 40ºC to + 55ºC (- 40ºF to + 130ºF)

For solid specimens, the primary receptacle is sift-proof and contains a maximum of 500 grams (~17.5 ounces)
Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

Primary receptacles are individually wrapped or separated and placed inside a leak-proof secondary receptacle

Secondary receptacles are certified by the manufacturer prior to use
- All containers provided by the DOH Bureau of Laboratories have been certified and can be used for ground OR air transport

Absorbent material has been placed between the primary and secondary receptacle
- Enough absorbent material is used to absorb the entire contents of all primary receptacles
- The secondary receptacle is not over packed – A pencil will fit between the primary receptacles after the absorbent material is added.

Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

An itemized list/manifest (sample log) of the contents is included with each shipment

The log contains a:
- Telephone number and/or cell phone number
- FAX number
- Email address

Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

A sturdy outer (tertiary) package is used to ship secondary receptacles
- The outer packaging consists of corrugated fiberboard, wood, metal, or rigid plastic and is appropriately sized for content

For liquids, the outer packaging does NOT contain more than a total of 4 liters (~ 4.228 quarts)
- Each individual primary receptacle contains a maximum of 500 milliliters (mL) or 17 ounces

For solids, the outer packaging does NOT contain more than a total of 4 kilograms (~ 8.82 pounds)
- Each individual primary receptacle contains a maximum of 500 grams (~17.5 ounces)
Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

If a courier such as DHL, FedEx, or UPS is used, then the waybill number has been written on the outside of each secondary Container.

The minimum package size in the smallest overall external dimension is 4 inches.
• If using the “double mailers” provided by DOH Bureau of Laboratories, they have been placed in a plastic envelope or pouch provided by the courier.

Packaging and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples – Checklist (continued)

Each completed package is capable of withstanding a 4 foot (1.2 meter) drop as outlined in IATA regulation 6.6.1.

The outer-most packaging includes an approved “Diagnostic Specimen” label.

Ice packs and insulated outer packaging is being used to assure specimen integrity during transit.

Bleach Solution

This can be made by mixing the following:
• 1 part household bleach
• 9 parts water

Do not use straight bleach
• It is no more effective and can damage chemically-resistant suits, gloves, and boots

Should be made ON-SCENE or daily
• Shelf-life is 48 hours or less
Chemical Agent Decontamination and Clean-up

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the technology and training to provide chemical agent decontamination.

Contact Phil Wieczynski, Greg Lee, or Doug White at (850) 245-2010

Biological Agent Decontamination and Clean-up

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the technology and training to provide biological agent decontamination.

Contact EPA at (404) 562-8700

Types of Containers For Diagnostic Specimens
Sample Transport and Chain of Custody

Sample can be transported, assuming due diligence, through any municipality without notice or contact of local agencies.

At this point, it is not determined that the agent is a biological Hazard.

In order to maintain the integrity of any evidence and the chain of custody for the sample, it must be transported by law enforcement or health department personnel.

Once at the lab, custody will be transferred to DOH personnel.

NOTE - Strike Team leader and Strike Team members with sampling and packaging certification will know the proper protocols to follow.

Sample Submission Form

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/PDF_Files/doh_form.pdf

Sample Submission Form (continued)

If you are deployed, you will be provided with the necessary Sample Submission Forms.
Sampling & Packaging Summary

- Understand existing state laboratory roles and responsibilities
- Aware of field sampling and packaging protocols for an epidemiological investigation

NOTE - Those who are certified in packaging and shipping and who routinely pack and ship diagnostic specimens should be assigned this responsibility in a disaster response.

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