

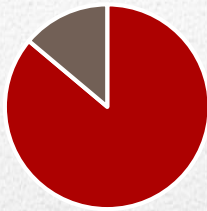


Lab Quarterly

Quarter 4-2018

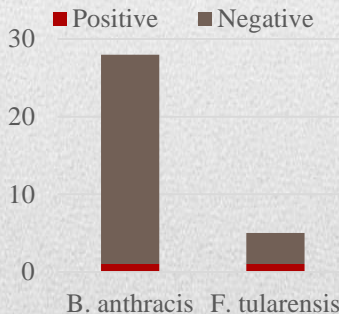
Bioterrorism Lab Stats: September 2017 to October 2018

BT Specimens Received



■ Clinical
■ Environmental

Positive Specimens vs.
Negative Specimens



What is a “Sentinel Laboratory?”

The responsibilities of a Sentinel Clinical Laboratory include:

- Provide satellites with directions and training
- Maintain ASM testing capabilities and participate in proficiencies
- Be familiar with your jurisdiction’s reportable disease guidelines
- Ensure a sufficient number of staff are trained for packaging & shipping infectious substances
- Collect and refer specimens to the nearest LRN reference lab
- Comply with safety practices as found in the BMBL
- Ensure biosafety risk assessments are performed as part of the quality management program
- Utilize a Class II Biosafety cabinet for suspected biothreat agents or when there is a risk of aerosolization

Read the full definition here: [APHL Sentinel Lab Definition](#)

Biosafety Box: Check Your Spill Kits!

Does your staff know where your spill kits are located?

Do they know how to use them?

Do you have the right type of spill kit for each type of spill? This could mean a biological spill kit, an acid spill kit, or a caustic spill kit.

Spill kits can be purchased from various sources, but a spill kit can also be as simple as a 5 gallon bucket containing instructions and supplies.

MALDI-TOF Now Available at the NDDoH Microbiology Lab

MALDI-TOF (matrix assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight) has been gaining popularity in microbiology labs for several years, and it is now available at the NDDoH Microbiology Laboratory. MALDI-TOF is a technique that measures the unique molecular fingerprint of an organism, then matches that molecular pattern to a database for identification. There are many advantages, including the identification of organisms that are difficult to ID with traditional biochemicals. Some disadvantages of using MALDI-TOF for identification include that the organism must be included in the database that you are using and that some organisms will only be identified to the genus level.

MALDI-TOF should always be used in conjunction with phenotypic, molecular or other laboratory testing such as Gram staining, colony morphology, growth characteristics, and sample type.