

Appendix F: Specimens for Laboratory Diagnosis

Agent	Face or Nasal Swab ¹	Blood Culture	Smear	Acute & Convalescent Sera	Stool	Urine	Other
Anthrax	+	+	Pleural and CS fluids mediastinal lymph node spleen	+		-	Cut. Lesion aspirates
Brucellosis	+	+	-	+	-	-	Bone marrow and spinal fluid cultures; tissues, exudates
Cholera	-	-	-	+	+	-	
Plague	+	+	Sputum	+	-	-	Bubo aspirate, CSF, sputum, lesion scraping, LN aspirate
Tularemia	+	+	+ ²	+	-	-	
Q-fever	+	⁴	Lesions	+			Lung, spleen, lymph nodes, bone marrow
Congo-Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever	+	³	-	+	-	-	Liver
VEE	+	³	-	+	-	-	CSF
Clostridial Toxins	+	-	Wound tissues	+	+	-	
SEB Toxin	+	-	-	+	+	+	Lung, kidney
Ricin Toxin	+	-	-	+	+	+	Spleen, lung, kidney

¹Within 18-24 hours

²Fluorescent antibody test on infected lymph node smears. Gram stain has little value.

³Virus isolation from blood or throat swabs in appropriate containment.

⁴*C. burnetii* can persist for days in blood and resists desiccation. EDTA anticoagulated blood preferred. Culturing should not be done except in BL3 containment.