

## Instructions for Submitting Clinical Specimens for *Legionella* Testing to NJDOH's Public Health Laboratory

<b>NJDOH Pre-Approval Needed</b>	Send request to <a href="mailto:PreventLD@doh.nj.gov">PreventLD@doh.nj.gov</a> or call NJDOH's Communicable Disease Service at (609) 826-5964
<b>Available Tests Through NJDOH/CDC</b>	Specimens and isolates: culture, sequencing, real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
<b>Acceptable Sample/Specimen Type for Testing</b>	Sputum, bronchial lavage (BAL), bronchial washings, tracheal aspirate, endotracheal tube washes, fresh lung tissue, presumptive <i>Legionella</i> pure culture isolates
<b>Minimum Volume Required</b>	0.2 mL; 0.5 mL preferred
<b>Collection, Storage, and Preservation of Specimen Prior to Shipping</b>	When possible, collect specimens prior to antibiotic treatment. Refrigerate (2-8°C) specimens after collection and freeze (-20°C or lower) as soon as possible within 96 hours. Ship frozen specimens to NJDOH within 7 days.  For pure culture isolates, ship as soon as they are identified on buffered charcoal yeast extract (BCYE) slants.
<b>Shipping Instructions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Specimen Labeling:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each specimen should be labeled with two identifiers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient first and last name</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• Unique patient identifier from the time of collection (e.g., medical record number)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <u>Specimen Packaging:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical specimens should be shipped frozen at -20°C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include sufficient dry ice or super cold packs to maintain the required temperature throughout transit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Isolates should be shipped refrigerated or at room temperature</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <u>Shipping Address:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send the specimen via same-day delivery to the following address: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories Specimen Receiving Unit 3 Schwarzkopf Drive Ewing, NJ 08628</p> </li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <u>Inclusion of Forms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete, print, and include the <a href="#">BACT-109</a> and <a href="#">CDC 50.34 Specimen Submission</a> forms with the specimen</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <u>Notification:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify NJDOH via email (<a href="mailto:PreventLD@doh.nj.gov">PreventLD@doh.nj.gov</a>) and include shipped date, package tracking number, and copies of completed BACT-109 and CDC 50.34 forms</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Additional Information</b>	Ground deliveries are accepted Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, except state holidays. Specimens that are not collected, stored, and transported at specified conditions may be rejected by the laboratory. For further questions regarding packaging and shipping please contact PHEL Receiving at (609) 530-8387. Please find link to the state courier service here: <a href="https://www.nj.gov/health/phel/">https://www.nj.gov/health/phel/</a> .

