

## Normally Sterile Sites: Invasive Bacterial Diseases

### Definition of normally sterile sites for submission of clinical isolates to the New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL)

**A normally sterile site is defined as:**

- blood
- bone and bone marrow
- cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- internal body sites
  - specimen obtained from surgery or aspirate from one of the following: brain, heart, kidney, liver, lymph node, ovary, pancreas, spleen, vascular tissue, vitreous fluid
- joint fluid
  - includes synovial fluid and needle aspirate or culture of any specific joint: ankle, elbow, hip, knee, wrist
- muscle
- pericardial fluid
- peritoneal fluid
  - includes abdominal fluid, ascites
- pleural fluid
  - includes chest fluid, thoracentesis fluid

For further information or clarification, call the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service during business hours at 609-826-5964.

More information about NJDOH PHEL may be found on their website, available at:  
[www.state.nj.us/health/phel/](http://www.state.nj.us/health/phel/)