



Tarrant County Public Health Department
North Texas Regional Laboratory
1101 S. Main St.
Forth Worth, TX 76104

Instructions for Submitting Environmental Samples for Biological Agent Testing

Environmental Samples:

- 1) Will be accepted by Tarrant County Public Health, North Texas Regional Laboratory only after HazMat and law enforcement have performed their assessment to rule out radiological, explosives and chemical agents.
- 2) Samples deemed as a LOW threat will only be tested for specific suspected agents indicated. HIGH threat levels samples will be tested for ALL specific agents listed in form.
- 3) Biological Detection System (BDS) GeneXpert cartridges MUST be shipped upright, 2-8°C.
- 4) Only suspected samples such as swabs, powder, contaminated paper, letters or liquid should be submitted for testing. Samples should be double-bagged and put in a container no larger than necessary and should not exceed 15" X 15" x 15".
- 5) Environmental Sample submission form must be completed and securely attached to sample or given directly to microbiologist performing testing.
- 6) Extraneous materials such as gloves, towels, and clothing MUST NOT be included with the samples. Extraneous materials should be placed in a biohazard bag and disposed of locally according to state and federal regulations.
- 7) Results of laboratory testing will only be released to the entity which submitted the sample.

Please contact The North Texas Regional Laboratory, Bioterrorism Response and Emerging Agents Section for additional information regarding environmental sample submission.

Tarrant County Public Health
North Texas Regional Laboratory
Bioterrorism Response and Emerging Agent Section

(817) 321-4774



Tarrant County Public Health Department
 North Texas Regional Laboratory
 BT Response/Emerging Agents Unit

BT Lab ID			
Date Received			
Time Received			AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/>
Received by			

Submission Form- Environmental Samples

I. Submitting Law Enforcement Agency Information

Date			
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Law Enforcement Agency Name	
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Agency Address	Street Address:	City:	State:	Zip code:
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Name and title of Person Submitting Sample	
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Contact Information	Phone:	Fax:
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II. Sample Information

Case number ID		Sample Collection Date			
Package Exterior Decontaminated		USPS ONLY (All submission criteria must be checked)	<input type="checkbox"/> BDS upright and at 2-8°C <input type="checkbox"/> Filter/Wipe "field blank" <input type="checkbox"/> Chain of Custody and Listing forms		
Sample Has Been Screened For:	<input type="checkbox"/> Explosives <input type="checkbox"/> Poisons <input type="checkbox"/> Radioactivity <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidizer <input type="checkbox"/> Flammable <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): _____				
Specific Agent Suspected	Agent: _____		Designated Threat Level		
			*** Please see instructions, #2 *** <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH <input type="checkbox"/> LOW		

III. Description of Items/Samples

Type/Description	Quantity	Location Sample Collected

IV. Chain of Custody Information

Released to <i>Tarrant County Laboratory Personnel ONLY</i>	Name	Title	Contact Phone
	Date	Signature _____	
Storage Information	Address	Location/Bin No.	Stored by
	Date	Signature _____	
Returned to <i>Law Enforcement Agent ONLY</i>	Name	Title	Contact Phone
	Date	Signature _____	

V. Destruction Information (if items/samples were not returned)

Destroyed by <i>Tarrant County Laboratory Personnel ONLY</i>	Name	Title	Contact Phone
	Date	Signature _____	
Destruction witnessed by	Name	Date	Signature