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Idaho Bureau of Laboratories Clinical Forum

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Packaging and Shipping Suspected Ebola Drill

Wendy Loumeau and Robert Voermans

The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) has been working with public health and clinical partners to prepare for the possibility of testing a person with suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) arriving in Idaho. One of the primary barriers to effective diagnosis of EVD is the ability to ship Division 6.2 Category A Infectious Substances to authorized LRN laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for testing.

In early December, IBL and an Idaho hospital laboratory conducted a drill to test the packaging, shipping, receipt, processing, and analysis phases of suspected EVD samples. The hospital laboratory was responsible for packaging and shipping a Category A sample (e.g., *Shigella* spp. culture) priority overnight

to IBL via FedEx, notifying IBL when the package had been shipped, providing the FedEx tracking number, and giving IBL detailed feedback regarding their packaging and shipping experiences. The IBL responsibilities included proper receipt and assessment of the packaging and replacement of the Category A culture with a simulated EVD sample for analysis using appropriate biosafety measures.

Following CDC recommendations, the hospital laboratory planned to package and ship the sample on ice packs but found that only Category A ambient shippers were available. Efforts were made to construct a Category A compliant insulated shipper. It took

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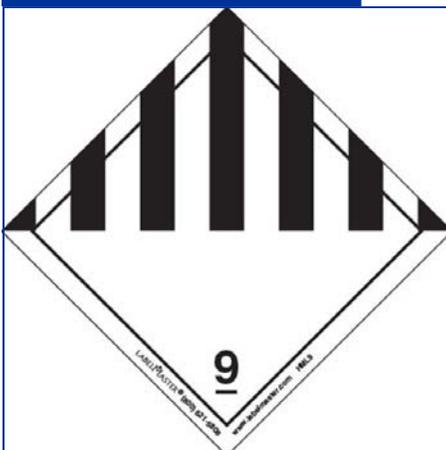
Figure 1. Robert Voermans and Erin Peterson, attired in appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs), begin processing an exercise sample for Ebola PCR testing.



Clinical Forum
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CURRENT LABELS



REMINDER: UPDATE SHIPPING LABELS

Effective October 1, 2014, per DOT regulations, shippers may not use the old Class 6 and 9 hazard labels:

- Class 6 Infectious Substance labels with the text “In U.S.A. Notify Director-CDC, Atlanta, GA 1-800-232-0124” are no longer allowed.
- Class 9 hazard labels with the horizontal line are no longer accepted.

Images found at <https://www.labelmaster.com/shop/labels/hazmat-labels/>.

Packaging and Shipping Drill

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approximately 10 minutes to package the sample and an additional hour to label the box and complete the required paperwork. Unfortunately, FedEx rejected the package for shipping because the labeling did not meet current requirements. The hospital laboratory later consulted with IBL and the next day was able to successfully package and send a sample under ambient conditions using approved Category A materials they had on hand.

Unfortunately, the hospital laboratory failed to notify IBL that the package had been shipped, and, consequently, the sample arrived unannounced at IBL the following day. By not having the FedEx tracking number, IBL was unable to track the shipping progress of this sample for an ex-

pected arrival time; this prevented IBL staff from the opportunity to prepare ahead of time for receiving and processing the sample. Regardless, testing personnel were able to provide test results on this simulated EVD sample in less than four hours; this turn-around time reflects a single patient specimen with no issues encountered during sample processing and testing phases.

As a result of this drill, the hospital laboratory has created a Category A shipping area where all materials are stored and available. This will expedite the labeling process, which was the most time-consuming component for the staff. In addition, they have identified that updated shipping labels are needed and that it would be beneficial to obtain insulated

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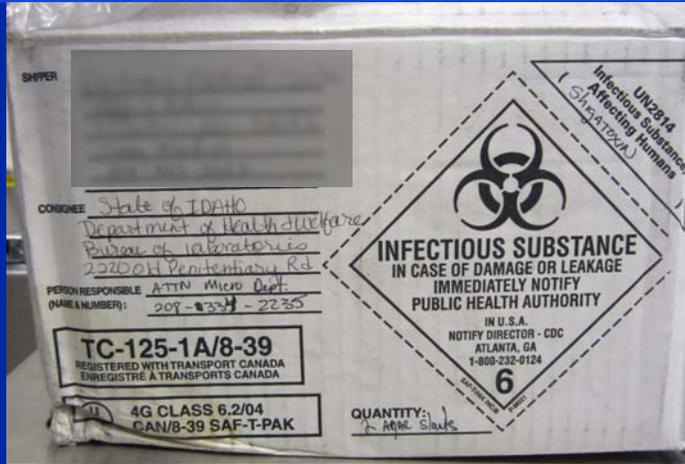
Packaging and Shipping Drill

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Category A shippers in addition to ambient ones. In a real incident, the hospital laboratory could contact their local public health department for assistance in obtaining appropriate shipping materials if needed. IBL plans to create Idaho-specific shipping guidelines for the laboratories to aid in the packaging and shipping process.

IBL appreciates the opportunity to test EVD response and work with the participating Idaho hospital laboratory on this drill. Any other hospital laboratories interested in testing their packaging and shipping response may contact Michael Stevenson at IBL via stevensm@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-2235 to schedule a similar drill.

Contact Michael Stevenson at stevensm@dhw.idaho.gov to test your lab's packaging and shipping response.



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

There are at least five issues identified with this package.

Answers are on page 6.

Common BT Shipping Errors

Most common errors could be prevented by contacting IBL prior to sending BT samples.

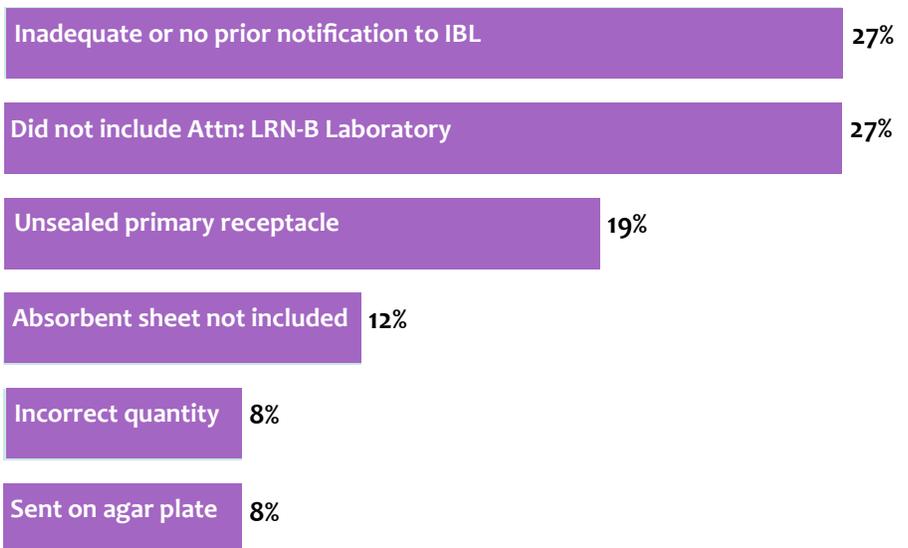


Figure 2. IBL completes a packaging and shipping evaluation for all biological threat (BT) samples. Evaluations for other sample types are completed by request.

Measles Detection Tests at IBL

Vonnita Barton

In light of the 2015 nationwide measles outbreak, Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) has received increased samples for measles testing. Our clinical partners statewide have inquired about IBL’s measles testing services for RT-PCR and IgM serology. See Figure 1 for an overview of each test.

	RT-PCR	IgM serology
How it works	Detects RNA in clinical sample	Detects antibodies within first few days of rash onset
Type of detection	Confirmation	Presumptive
Sample type	Swabs in 1-3 ml viral transport medium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oropharyngeal (throat) • Nasal • Nasopharyngeal (NP) 	Serum in tubes without additives (plain, red-top, serum separator)—0.5-1 ml preferred volume
Time to collect samples	As soon after rash as possible Most successful within first 3 days of rash onset; may be successful 10-14 post rash onset	As soon after rash as possible Most successful within first few days of rash onset
Cost*	No fee if during outbreak or epidemiologic investigation \$62.00 for routine screening	No fee if during outbreak or epidemiologic investigation \$37.00 for routine screening
Turnaround time (TAT)	2 business days	2 business days if reagents available NA if reagents not available
Prior notification requested	Yes, call 208-334-0530	Yes, call 208-334-0530

Figure 1. IBL performs RT-PCR and IgM serology testing for measles detection.

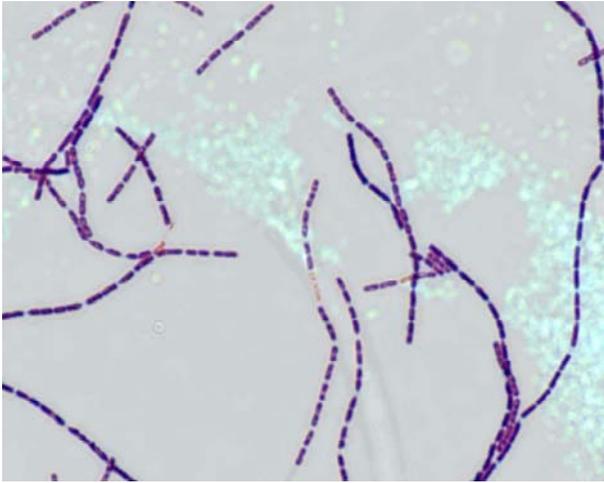
**The Idaho Division of Public Health provides a wide range of services, including providing support for the Public Health Districts as they investigate cases of disease by coordinating statewide outbreak investigations, providing specialized public health laboratory testing, supplying vaccines for children, and regulating food safety. During times of outbreak investigation, there is no fee associated with surveillance testing. Fees for routine screening that does not occur during an outbreak investigation or is not an epidemiologic request can be found on the IBL website at www.statelab.idaho.gov (Figure 2).*

Bureau Guide

- [Sampling and Submission Guide](#)
- [Public Health District Client Filing Form](#)
- [Fees Effective July 1, 2012](#)
- IBL Supply Request**
 - Online ordering
 - Print and fax order form
- IBL Web Portal Access**
 - Web portal

Figure 2. The current fee list is available on the State Lab website at www.statelab.idaho.gov.

NAME THAT AGENT



If you're not sure what this agent may be, consider attending one of our Sentinel Laboratory Preparedness Workshops this spring:

- April 27, 2015—Boise
- April 28, 2015—Boise
- April 30, 2015—Pocatello

Register FREE at <http://app.keysurvey.com/f/724060/1278/>. Register by April 20th.

To be added

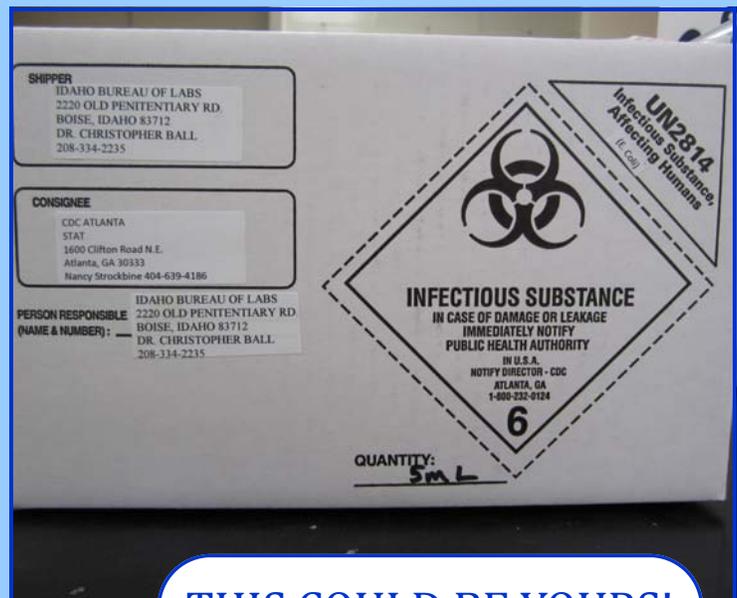
or removed

from the

Clinical Forum

email list:

statelab@dhw.idaho.gov



THIS COULD BE YOURS!

In partnership with the National Laboratory Training Network, IBL is offering two Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 training courses: May 18th in Lewiston and May 21st in Boise.

Register FREE at www.aphl.org/courses/Pages/017-15.aspx.



Lisa Lam, Microbiologist

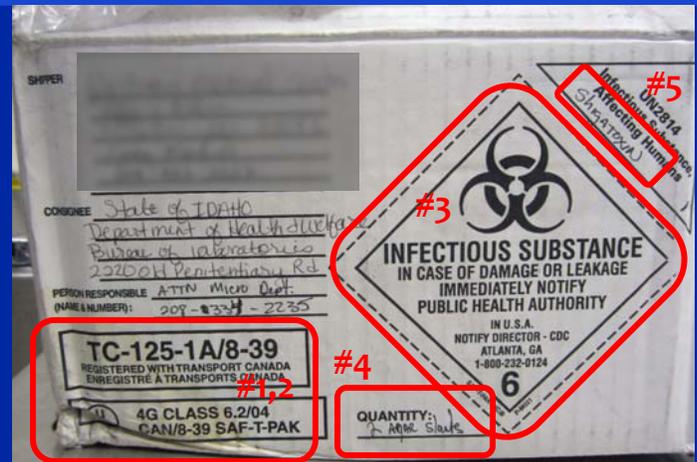
Lisa Lam joined IBL in February 2015 when she accepted the position of Microbiologist. Lisa was born and raised in Boise, Idaho and attended Boise State University where she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. While there, she worked in Dr. Jennifer Forbey’s research lab looking at the various chemical properties of sagebrush and their influence on obligate herbivores. After graduating, Lisa worked for the US Geological Survey as a field technician collecting Sage-grouse feathers for genetic analysis and then for IBL as a water quality sampling technician. In the year before coming to IBL in her current position, she worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in their Fish Genetics Laboratory doing DNA extraction on fish tissue.

Lisa enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, camping, and fishing. In her spare time, she also enjoys cooking and reading.

Upcoming Webinar

June 9, 2015; 11:00 am Mountain Time
 “Lab Confirmation of Measles in Highly Vaccinated Populations”

Contact Wendy Loumeau at loumeauw@dhw.idaho.gov to access archived programs.



THE PROBLEM

1. Damaged box
2. Stained box
3. Old Class 6 label used
4. Quantity should be actual volume, not container type
5. Shiga toxin should be “Suspected Category A Infectious Substance” (lost in the crowd concept)