



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

BUREAU OF LABORATORIES

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IDAHO SENTINEL LABORATORY NETWORK LAB UPDATE

October 17, 2016

ADDITION OF *BACILLUS CEREUS* BIOVAR *ANTHRACIS* AS A TIER 1 SELECT AGENT

On September 14, 2016, the Federal Select Agent Program sent a notice of the publication of an Interim Final Rule that added *B. cereus* Biovar *anthracis* as a Tier 1 Select Agent.

Bacillus cereus Biovar *anthracis* shares many phenotypic characteristics of *B. anthracis* and *B. cereus*. This organism is a **non-hemolytic, motile** *Bacillus* and shares virulence plasmids with *B. anthracis*. The virulence plasmids can only be detected with molecular methods by the Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats (LRN-B) laboratory at Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL). *B. cereus* Biovar *anthracis* infection can mimic anthrax and has the potential to pose a severe public health threat.

If your laboratory identifies a non-hemolytic bacillus (gram-positive rod) **regardless of motility**, please call IBL and refer the isolate to IBL's LRN-B laboratory. Further information and guidance will be sent as needed.

Message Categories

Lab Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Lab Advisory: important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Lab Update: updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.