



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE  
**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Test Title	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> (Plague)
Sample Requirements	1. Specimen type: See Table 1 below for full listing of specimen types, requirements, special instructions and rejection criteria.
Sampling Materials	1. Sample container: See Table 1 below.
Procedural Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <a href="#">Clinical Test Request Form</a> for submitting clinical samples</li><li>2. <a href="#">Biological Threat Food/Environmental Test Request Form</a> for submitting food, water or environmental samples</li><li>3. For all samples suspected of containing a biological threat agent, contact the IBL Microbiology Section <u>before</u> sample collection and/or submission. TEL: 208-334-2235</li><li>4. See Table 1 below for sample specific procedural notes.</li><li>5. Refer to ASM Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines for further information: <a href="http://www.asm.org/index.php/guidelines/sentinel-guidelines">www.asm.org/index.php/guidelines/sentinel-guidelines</a>.</li></ol>
Shipping Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Temperature/preservative instructions: See procedural notes in Table 1 below.</li><li>2. Package and ship according to Biological Substance, Category B shipping guidelines.</li><li>3. Ship to: Idaho Bureau of Laboratories <b>ATTN: LRN-B Laboratory</b> 2220 Old Penitentiary Rd Boise, ID 83712</li></ol>
Reporting and Turnaround Time (TAT)	1. TAT: 1-10 business days

Table 1. *Yersinia pestis* Sampling Guidelines

Sample type	Sampling materials	Sample collection	Procedural notes	Sample rejection criteria
Lower respiratory tract	Sterile, screw-capped containers	As per standard procedures for submitter's facility	Store and transport specimens at 2-8°C.	Unlabeled or improperly packaged specimens that are leaking or otherwise compromised
Blood	Appropriate blood culture bottle	Follow established laboratory protocols for processing blood cultures.	Transport samples directly to the laboratory at ambient temperature and place onto the blood culture instrument. Do not refrigerate.	
Aspirate, tissue or biopsy specimen	Sterile, non-glass, leak-proof, container	Submit tissue or aspirate in a sterile container.	For small samples, add 1-2 drops of sterile normal saline to keep the tissue moist. Store and transport specimens at 2-8°C.	
Swabs (clinical)	Standard bacterial transport swab	Collect specimen and reinsert swab into appropriate transport package.	A swab of tissue is not recommended. However, if a swab specimen is collected it should be sent to the laboratory for immediate processing.	
Clinical isolates	Slant preferably with chocolate agar	Inoculate slant with a single, isolated colony.	Organisms submitted for rule out testing should have been first screened using ASM Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines.	
Food, water, or environmental	Contact Idaho Bureau of Laboratories <u>before</u> sample collection or submission.			