



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: North Carolina Clinical Laboratories

From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Laboratory Director
William A. Glover, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP), Assistant Laboratory Director
for Infectious Diseases

Date: June 5, 2025

Re: Legionella Guidance and North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health
(NCSLPH) Resources

As we move into the warmer months in North Carolina, laboratories should remain alert for cases of Legionnaires' disease. When feasible, a lower respiratory specimen and urine for *Legionella* urinary antigen testing should be obtained concurrently. The NCSLPH asks that laboratories performing *Legionella* culture on lower respiratory specimens submit *Legionella* isolates to NCSLPH for potential cluster investigations and epidemiologic linkages to environmental samples. *Legionella* isolates should be shipped in a container that meets safety requirements. Agar slants are preferred.

NCSLPH also performs *Legionella* culture and DFA (direct fluorescent antibody) staining for clinical specimens. Clinical specimens including sputum, pleural fluid, lung biopsy tissue, bronchial washings and lavages, and tracheal aspirates should be shipped to NCSLPH in leak-proof containers with frozen ice packs for receipt within 3 days of collection. If there is a delay in shipping specimens to NCSLPH, specimens must be frozen and shipped on dry ice in an insulated container via commercial courier.

All submissions must be accompanied by a [Special/Atypical Bacteriology Specimen Submission form](#). Additional information about submission criteria and shipping can be found on pages 152-153 of the [NCSLPH SCOPE: A Guide to Laboratory Services](#).

For questions, contact Thomas Lawson, Microbiology Unit Manager, at 919-807-8803 or Joyce Knutsen, Bacteriology Supervisor, at 919-807-8793.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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