

WIPE, Test Code 2099-Bacillus anthracis Culture

Bacillus anthracis is the spore forming bacterium that causes the acute infectious disease Anthrax. Though it usually affects wild and domestic sheep, cattle, horses and other herbivores it can be contracted to humans thru infected animals or tissue.

Swab samples can be collected to test for *B. anthracis* by using the following method.

1. Use a sterile Stuart Transport dry swab or wipe.
2. Wipe the suspected surface. Recommended wipe area is <math><100\text{ cm}^2</math>.
3. Place dry swab in back into sterile container and **do not** break ampoule. If using a wipe, place wipe in dry conical tube obtained from Aerobiology.
4. Wipe outside of swab/wipe container with 10% bleach solution.
5. Label swab/wipe container and place in self sealing bag.
6. Clean the outside of the bag with 10% bleach solution prior to leaving the contaminated area.
7. Place the cleaned, sealed bag in another unused similar bag.
8. Clean the outside of the second bag with 10% bleach solution.
9. Place the double-bagged samples in a plastic container.
10. Following are minimum packing requirements established by the CDC for shipment of diagnostic specimens.

40 CFR Part 72.2 Transportation of diagnostic specimens, biological products, and other materials; minimum packaging requirements.

“...Material is packaged to withstand leakage of contents, shocks, pressure changes, and other conditions incident to ordinary handling in transportation.”

Website: www.aerobiology.net

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 5.2.6.6:61, 7.1: 141-143 (2005).

Macher, Janet, Sc.D., M.P.H., Bioaerosols , 9.4.1.2. (1999).

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol8no10/02-0382.html> , Centers for Disease Control, (2002).