

Dear Public Health Partner,

The purpose of this email is to provide public health laboratories guidance on testing suspect Sudan virus infected patients.

Notification and Consultation with CDC

Per the CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) message, [Outbreak of Outbreak of Ebola virus disease \(Sudan Virus\) in Central Uganda](#), “U.S. clinicians with concerns about a patient with suspected EVD should contact their state, local, tribal, or territorial health department immediately ([24-hour contact numbers for state and large jurisdiction health departments](#)) and follow jurisdictional protocols for patient assessment. Early recognition and identification of a suspected EVD [patient under investigation \(PUI\)](#) is critical. If a diagnosis of EVD is considered, clinical teams should coordinate with [state/local public health officials](#) and CDC to ensure appropriate precautions are taken to help prevent potential spread of EVD.”

Prior to accepting and testing any suspected viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) or EVD specimens, state and /or local health departments should contact CDC’s Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 and requesting VSPB’s on-call epidemiologist. CDC will engage the appropriate public health leadership and provide guidance on testing and specimen referral if warranted.

Sudan Virus Testing Information

In the U.S., Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats Preparedness (LRN-B) reference laboratories with the BioFire FilmArray® 2.0 System and Next Generation Diagnostic System (NGDS) Warrior Panel can perform testing for Sudan Virus. The Warrior Panel was developed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and has been FDA 510(k) cleared. The panel is for the presumptive identification of Ebola virus, Marburg virus, *Coxiella burnetii*, *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis* in clinical specimens. The assay is intended for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) designated laboratories, which includes selected LRN-B member laboratories. At present, CDC is working with strategic LRN laboratories to validate the Warrior Panel under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). CDC is also working with Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTC) to establish the Warrior Panel under CLIA. **Please ensure that you engage your epidemiologist in specimen referral discussions and share the information below with your epidemiologist and health official.**

Proposed Specimen Referral Plan

As of November 4, twenty-five public health laboratories within the LRN-B have verified the Warrior Panel under CLIA and are prepared to provide testing support for the network. CDC continues to work with additional laboratories to increase and ensure testing coverage.

Please review the attached spreadsheet, also available on the LRN Secure Information Hub, which identifies laboratories that have implemented the Warrior Panel. If testing is deemed necessary after a clinical consultation with CDC, testing may occur in other regions to avoid placing undue burden on one laboratory. There may be several laboratories with testing capability in a particular region. LRN-B

Reference Laboratories are encouraged to reach out to any of these laboratories listed, regardless of region, and establish a specimen referral plan. During these discussions, please establish points of contact and address reporting and other information sharing needs.

CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) are aware of potential support issues such as funding for laboratories and personnel who may need to work overtime, specimen transport including packing and shipping, biosafety, and reporting using electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) mechanisms. Below are resources which may help to address some of these issues. We are working across CDC and with other partners to provide additional guidance.

Funding for Staff Overtime and On-Call Time

Recipients of CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (ELC) Cooperative Agreement should consult with their project officer on funding for Ebola preparedness efforts. Please note that if you are requesting funds for a particular staff, that employee must be listed on your ELC budget. CDC's ELC Program will provide more information on funding. More information on CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement is forthcoming.

Recommended Actions

We recommend that LRN-B reference laboratories consider the following actions:

1. To provide guidance in consultation with hospitals and clinical laboratories, ensure you have staff with current certification in packing and shipping of Category A infectious substances. Samples from patients who are patients under investigation (PUIs) should be packaged and shipped as Category A infectious substances in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT's) [Hazardous Materials Regulations \(HMR\) 49 CFR 171-180](#). All persons packing and shipping infectious substances must be trained and certified in compliance with DOT or the [International Air Transport Association](#) (IATA) requirements every two years.
2. Contact LRN-B reference laboratories that have the capability to test for *Sudan virus* (see attached spreadsheet) to ensure you establish a mutual understanding of the specimen referral plan. Discuss any barriers that may exist and work to find solutions.
3. Assemble personal protective equipment (PPE) and review your laboratory's biosafety, biosecurity, and Ebola risk assessment plans.
4. Begin outreach to your clinical laboratories and encourage them to review information on biosafety including personal protective equipment, specimen collection and transport and packing and shipping for specimens suspected to contain Ebola virus.
 - a. Review and update contact list for all hospitals in your jurisdiction or catchment area, specifically with direct numbers to the hospital laboratory and infection control if available.
 - b. Determine a method of shipping specimens to *Sudan virus* testing laboratory, including practicing creating the waybill for commercial carriers.
 - c. Consider surveying your hospitals to find out what assistance is needed for Ebola response e.g., packing and shipping.
 - d. Consider engaging your hospitals in a specimen packing and shipping exercise.
5. Contact your Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center ([Partners & Regional Contacts | NETEC](#)) and establish a point of contact and share information about your 24/7 on-call contact.

6. Review and make available the 24-hour point of contact list of state health departments:
[Laboratory Contact List](#).
7. Review and update your laboratory's 24/7 contact information on the LRN Secure Information Hub.
8. Please review and understand all guidance on submitting specimens to the CDC for confirmatory testing in case of a presumptive positive result.
 - a. Determine a method of shipping specimens to *Sudan virus* testing laboratory, including practicing creating the waybill for commercial carriers.
 - b. ***Note that BioFire Warrior Panel results are presumptive and positive results will need to be confirmed by testing at CDC.***
 - c. ***Note: Negative results from specimens collected <72 hours after symptom onset does NOT rule out Sudan Virus. Specimens must be taken at least 72 hours after symptom onset to rule-out Sudan Virus.***
9. Contact the LRN-B Help Desk through the LRN Secure Information Hub if you have any questions about the proposed specimen referral plan.

Resources

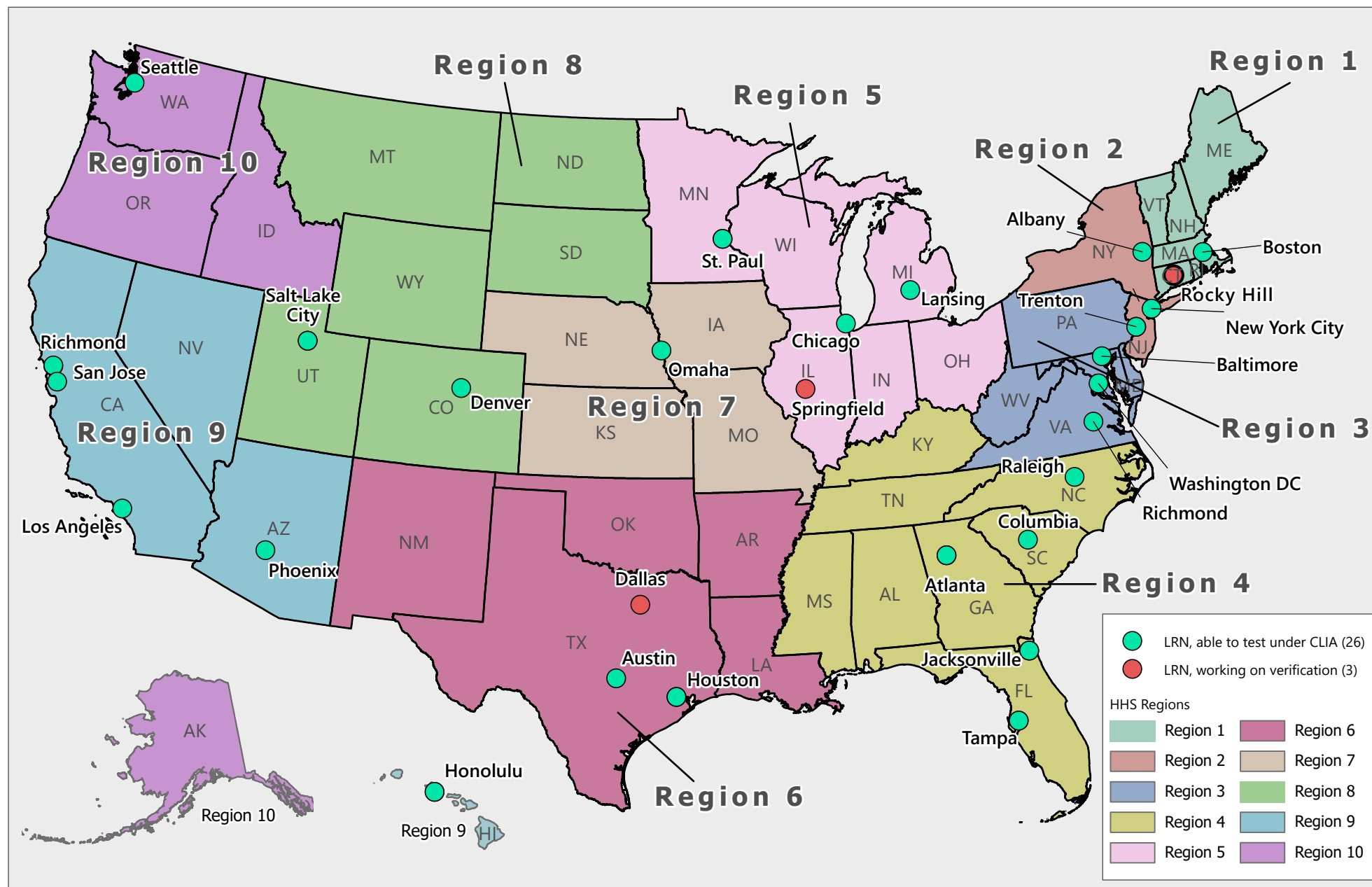
- CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Message, [Outbreak of Outbreak of Ebola virus disease \(Sudan Virus\) in Central Uganda](#)
- [CDC Ebola Virus Disease Website](#)
- [Guidance for Collection, Transport and Submission of Specimens for Ebola Virus Testing](#)
- Ebola Briefing for U.S. Public Health Laboratories: On October 12, 2022, APHL convened a call for public health laboratories where CDC's Incident Management Team provided an overview of the response, discussed exit and entry screening procedures as well as laboratory technologies for detection of *Sudan Virus* and the state of laboratory preparedness. Below you will find the link to the recording:
https://aphl.zoom.us/rec/share/dSuPvbraDCqdw_X57kSggig6aeoyeIDQRfMLFvlqJpYiFGbVdGUoQnMkletH6HMu.cbjwWMYqafszqMOK
Passcode: Kxd8D%YF
- Packing and Shipping for Suspected Ebola Specimens Webinar: On October 27, 2022, CDC's OneLab Network convened a webinar on packing and shipping for suspected Ebola specimens. View the recording [here](#).

HHS Region	Jurisdictions	Sudan Virus Testing Laboratory Contact Information	Shipping Address	24/7 Phone Number
1	Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont	Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory , Connecticut Department of Public Health (pending)	395 West Street Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067	Main: 860-716-2705 Alt.: 860-920-6500
		Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory	305 South Street Boston, Massachusetts 02130	Main: 617-590-6390 Alt.: 617-839-3220
2	New Jersey New York City New York Puerto Rico U.S. Virgin Islands	New Jersey Department of Health - Public Health and Environmental Laboratories	3 Schwarzkopf Drive, L-265 Ewing, New Jersey 08628	Main: 609-406-6851 Alt.: 215-801-6622
		New York City Public Health Laboratory	455 First Avenue New York, New York 10016	Main: 212-671-5823 Alt.: 212-764-7667
		New York State Department of Health - Wadsworth Center	David Axelrod Institute Wadsworth Center 120 New Scotland Avenue Albany, New York 12208	Main: 518-474-4177 Alt.: 866-881-2809
3	Delaware District of Columbia Maryland Pennsylvania Virginia West Virginia	District of Columbia Public Health Laboratory	401 E Street SW, 4th floor Washington, District of Columbia 20024	Main: 202-374-0357 Alt: 202-481-3109
		Maryland Department of Health Laboratories Administration	1770 Ashland Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21205	Main: 443-681-3788 Alt.: 410-925-3121
		Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services	600 N 5th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219	Main: 804-648-4480 Alt.: 804-385-8057
4	Alabama Florida Georgia Kentucky Mississippi North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee	Georgia Public Health Laboratory	1749 Clairmont Road Decatur, Georgia 30033	Main: 404-655-3695 Alt.: 866-782-4584
		Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories - Jacksonville	1217 Pearl Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202	Main: 904-791-1712 Alt.: 904-945-4415
		Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories - Tampa	3602 Spectrum Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33612	Main: 813-459-4039 Alt.: 813-956-8850
		North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health	4312 District Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27607	Main: 919-807-8600 Alt.: 919-310-4243
		South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control - Public Health Laboratory	8231 Parklane Road Columbia, South Carolina 29223	Main: 803-896-0777 Alt.: 803-767-8118

HHS Region	Jurisdictions	Sudan Virus Testing Laboratory Contact Information	Shipping Address	24/7 Phone Number
5	Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin	Illinois Department of Public Health - Chicago	2121 W Taylor Street Chicago, Illinois 60612	Main: 217-782-7860 Alt.: 217- 220-1739
		Illinois Department of Public Health - Springfield (pending)	825 N Rutledge Street Springfield, Illinois 62702	Main: 800-782-7860 Alt.: 217-782-7860
		Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Bureau of Laboratories	Bureau of Laboratories 927 Terminal Road Lansing, Michigan 48906	Main: 517-335-9653 Alt.: 517-862-6933
		Minnesota Department of Health - Public Health Laboratory	601 N Robert Street PO Box 64899 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164	Main: 612-282-3723 Alt.: 612-282-3750
6	Arkansas Louisiana New Mexico Oklahoma Texas	Dallas County Health and Human Services - Laboratory Services (pending)	2377 N Stemmons Freeway, Basement Suite 003 Dallas, Texas 75207	Main: 972-692-2762 Alt.: 512-415-2546
		Houston Health Department - Bureau of Laboratory Services	2250 Holcombe Boulevard Houston, Texas 77030	Main: 713-471-6376 Alt.: 832-260-6723
		Texas Department of State Health Services - Laboratory Services	Laboratory Services Section, Mail Code 1947 1100 W 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756	Main: 512-776-7185 Alt.: 512-634-6728
7	Iowa Kansas Missouri	Nebraska Public Health Laboratory	University of Nebraska Medical Center 601 S Saddle Creek Road Omaha, Nebraska 68106	Main: 402-888-5588 Alt.: 402-888-4598
8	Colorado Montana North Dakota South Dakota Utah Wyoming	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, State Public Health Laboratory	Laboratory Services Division 8100 Lowry Boulevard Denver, Colorado 80230	Main: 303-691-4077 Alt.: 720-319-0025
		Utah Department of Health and Human Services - Utah Public Health Laboratory	4431 S 2700 West Taylorsville, Utah 84129	Main: 801-560-6586 Alt.: 801-560-6816

HHS Region	Jurisdictions	Sudan Virus Testing Laboratory Contact Information	Shipping Address	24/7 Phone Number
9	American Samoa Arizona California Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Federated States of Micronesia Guam Hawaii Nevada Republic of Palau Republic of the Marshall Islands	Arizona Department of Health and Human Services - State Laboratory Services	250 N 17th Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007	Main: 480-955-0888
		California Department of Public Health - Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory	850 Marina Bay Parkway Attn: VRDL-X Priority Richmond, California 94804	Main: 510-307-8585 Alt: 916-328-3605
		Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Public Health Laboratory	12750 Erickson Avenue Downey, California 90242	Main: 213-989-7140 Alt: 213-344-8452
		County of Santa Clara Public Health Laboratory	2220 Moorpark Avenue, 2nd Floor San Jose, California 95128	Main: 408-833-5824 Alt.: 669-207-9563
		State of Hawaii Department of Public Health and Environmental Laboratories - State Laboratories Division	2725 Waimano Home Road Pearl City, Hawaii 96782	Main: 808-453-5993 Alt.: 808-554-9992
10	Alaska Idaho Oregon	Washington State Department of Health - Washington State Public Health Laboratories	1610 NE 150 Street Shoreline, Washington 98155	Main: 206-418-5481 Alt.: 206-391-5037

LRN Ebola Sudan Specimen Referral Plan, 04-NOV-2022



ATSDR

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry



Geospatial Research, Analysis, and
Services Program