

BOTULISM (BOTULISM TOXIN)

Orderable – VIRCRO

Specimen and Collection Information:

Contact Microbiologist before collecting sample.

Suitable clinical specimens for analyses include:

- Faecal samples (approximately 10g if available);
- Enema fluid in a sterile container
- Gastric contents in a sterile container
- Serum (from 20 ml of blood collected before administration of antitoxin) in 5 mL Gold or 6 mL Red top Vacutainer tubes; and
- For suspected infant botulism, the essential material for analysis is the infant's faeces. As constipation is a common symptom, the soiled parts of diapers, a rectal swab, 2 ml of serum or a combination of samples may be submitted if necessary.

Specimens must be collected prior to administration of Botulinum Antitoxin.

Contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to access Botulinum Antitoxin.

Public Health Units direct collection of suspected food sources for testing.

Prior to submission of a sample, Botulism Reference Service must be notified.
Botulism Reference Service for Canada: Laboratory (613) 957-0885, 24h/7d
consultation (613) 296-1139

Suspected cases must be reported to the Public Health Unit by the most responsible care provider.

Storage and Shipment:

Specimen must be refrigerated.
Specimen must be received within 24 hours of collection.



Laboratory:
Microbiology



Test Schedule:
Referred out weekdays



Referred to:
Botulism Reference
Service
Health Canada, Banting
Research Centre
251 Sir Frederick Banting
Driveway, Room D457
Tunney's Pasture,
Ottawa, Ontario