

**Botulism**

Use of Test:	Detection of botulinum neurotoxin-producing <i>Clostridium</i> species and botulinum-neurotoxin in clinical, food, or environmental specimens/samples  Foodborne botulism is a Class A reportable disease; infant and wound botulism are Class B reportable diseases. Contact local health jurisdiction or the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Infectious Diseases (BID) at (614) 722-7221 to report suspect cases.
Test Includes:	Mouse bioassay; Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR); Culture
Availability:	Test is available to all clinical laboratories and local public health jurisdictions.  Prior approval of the ODH BID is required. ODH BID will advise on collection of appropriate samples.
Limitations:	Serum is generally not useful in the diagnosis of infant botulism.
Fees:	Public health investigation testing - Exempt Non-public health investigation testing - Fee Due
Causes for Rejection:	Inappropriate specimen transport container; Unlabeled or mislabeled specimen; Inappropriate transport conditions; Incomplete or missing specimen submission form; Specimen leakage during transport; Inappropriate specimen for test ordered; Specimen outdated, exceeds appropriate time from collection to receipt; Quantity not sufficient to perform test; Improperly preserved specimen
Turnaround Time:	9 days (negative); 17 days (positive)
Forms Required:	Clinical Specimens - <a href="#">Microbiology Submission Form (HEA 2530)</a>  Environmental Samples - <a href="#">Biothreat Environmental Sample Submission Form (HEA ENV)</a>  Food Samples - <a href="#">Food Submission Form (HEA Food)</a>
Specimen Requirements:	Refer to " <a href="#">Botulism Specimen and Sample Guide</a> ".

Shipping Requirements: Refer to “[Botulism Specimen and Sample Guide](#)”. Ship in compliance with federal regulation and local guidelines. Refer to the [Shipping Resources](#) page for more information.

Other Information: Botulinum neurotoxin-producing *Clostridium* species and botulinum neurotoxin are regulated as select agents by federal law. Contact the ODH Laboratory at (614) 644-4656 for information on handling of specimens or samples that may contain a select agent or toxin. Refer to the website <http://www.selectagents.gov/> for information on the requirements for storage, reporting and transfer of select agents and toxins.