



ANTHRAX

Protocol Overview and Methods:

The causative agent of Anthrax is *Bacillus anthracis*, a large, aerobic gram-positive, rod-shaped, spore-forming bacteria. The organism or spores usually grow within 24 hours of culture.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL) can test for *Bacillus anthracis* using culture and molecular real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) methods.

- Culture methods are used to grow the organism on agar plates. Biochemical testing and other methods can be performed to rule out or confirm *Bacillus anthracis*.
- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from *Bacillus anthracis* are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. **Any positive qPCR result is considered preliminary until a positive culture result is obtained.**

Contact Information:

DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For more information:

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156.

<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>