

Wisconsin Emerging Infections Project

Laboratory Surveillance for Agents of Emerging Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism

What is the Wisconsin Emerging Infections Project (WEIP)?

WEIP offers phenotypic and molecular methods identification of clinical bacterial isolates to **laboratories within the state of Wisconsin**. These isolates may be rare, fastidious, or poorly characterized bacteria that are not identifiable by commercial identification systems. 16s rRNA gene sequencing analysis will be performed in parallel with phenotypic analysis and MALDI-TOF to optimally identify submitted isolates. A subset of these isolates may represent newly emerging pathogens or potential bioterrorism agents. The results may be shared with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Wisconsin Division of Public Health if deemed necessary.



Laboratory Surveillance for Agents of Emerging Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism

For consideration, candidate isolates must meet the following selection criteria. Note: Identification is provided at no charge to the participating laboratory.

Criteria for Submission of Bacterial Isolates to WEIP:

- Must be isolates in pure culture from sterile body sites such as blood, CSF, tissue, or bone, or respiratory secretions.
- Must be considered clinically significant and/or a public health concern (e.g. C. diphtheriae).
- Screened using phenotypic tests, a commercial identification system (MIDI, API, VITEK or others) or MALDI-TOF.

OR

- An isolate that cannot be ruled out as a potential bioterrorism agent (e.g. Bacillus anthracis, Brucella spp., Francisella tularensis, Yersinia pestis)**

**WSLH will not routinely accept anaerobes or atypical Enterobacteriaceae unless they can be considered of public health significance. Enterobacteriaceae isolates suspected to be Yersinia spp. will be accepted.*

***See the ASM Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols for Suspected Biological Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases web site for guidance (<https://www.asm.org/index.php/guidelines/sentinel-guidelines>)*

Isolates may be submitted using Statmedex courier service at no charge to your laboratory (Use account number 1000). Call 763-233-0099 or visit <http://statmedex.com/> to arrange for pick-up at your laboratory.

If you have any questions about submitting specimens for the WEIP program, or to inquire if an isolate satisfies the selection criteria, please call 1-800-862-1013.