



Botulinum toxin
(*Clostridium botulinum*)
Revision 5-26-15



Missouri Dept of Health and Senior Services (800) 392-0272 (24 hours)
State Public Health Laboratory (573) 751-3334 or (573) 522-1444

Botulinum toxin has been developed as an aerosol weapon. There is no human data on the effects of breathing this toxin, but it may resemble the food borne syndrome. In case of a bioterrorism event, people may be exposed by breathing in the toxin or by ingesting contaminated food or water.

If a case of botulinum toxin exposure is suspected **through clinical diagnosis**, contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (800) 392-0272 for authorization of sample submission. Arrangements will be made at that time for the shipment of samples to CDC for testing.

The State Public Health Laboratory is not equipped to process clinical specimens for botulinum toxin.

CDC maintains the national supply of botulism anti-toxin and will ship the anti-toxin when needed. CDC is also available for consultation with physicians 24 hours a day. Botulism can be fatal and should be considered a medical emergency.