

Questions Regarding Environmental Sampling for Federal Mail Rooms in the Washington, D.C. Area

1. What is being done?

GSA established a contract to test (sample) mailrooms in Federal facilities for *Bacillus anthracis*. This work is being administered through independent contractors with oversight from CDC and the Federal Occupational Health. Laboratory analysis for confirmation of field samples is done through the CDC. The EPA is involved in remediation and clearance sampling for mail rooms at Federal facilities that test positive as confirmed positive by the CDC lab.

2. Who should my agency contact for environmental sampling?

Agencies should contact GSA to coordinate contract services for sampling and analysis of mailrooms. The contact / phone number for this is Trish Gretskey-Williams at 202-708-5236.

3. What if my agency has already done environmental sampling?

You will be asked to forward this information to the CDC. Please E-mail this information to BTRT.Enviro@hhs.gov. Any positive results from this analysis are considered suspicious until final confirmation of all positive samples by the CDC laboratory. The lab that processed your initial samples will coordinate this shipment by contacting CDC in Atlanta for confirmatory analysis. If the results are negative it is likely that further testing will not be done at this time as per CDC guidelines.

4. How long does environmental sampling take?

Approximately 2 hours.

5. How will I find out about results from this environmental sampling?

Results of the confirmatory sampling by CDC will be communicated to your agencies designated point of contact by CDC/ Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Environmental Protection Agency will coordinate any clean-up effort, as needed based on sampling results.

6. How long before I receive results?

Results will be communicated as soon as they are available.

7. Should I continue on antibiotics until results from environmental sampling are completed?

Yes. Once the environmental sampling and laboratory analysis are completed, you will be instructed on what to do.

8. My Federal facility is located outside the Washington, D.C. area. How can we obtain environmental sampling?

Your agency should contact GSA and inquire about contract services. The contacts at GSA include **(202) 708-5236**.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBER CONTACTS

1. Questions regarding your agency's schedule for testing should be directed to Trish Gretsky-Williams at GSA at **(202) 708-5236**
2. Questions regarding laboratory results should be directed towards CDC/ Health and Human Services Command Center: **(202) 358-2413**
3. Questions regarding medical questions concerning Anthrax and prophylaxis-related issues should be directed to the CDC Public Hotline: **(888) 246-2857**
4. Questions regarding clean-up of your facility (if necessary) should be directed to the EPA Emergency Operations Center: **(202) 564-3850**