



MLS: Laboratory Update

Now Available: Updated ASM Sentinel Lab Packaging and Shipping Protocol

July 27, 2011

Purpose of this Message

To inform you of the newly updated ASM protocol: “Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines for Suspected Agents of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases for Packing and Shipping Infectious Substances.”

Where to Find the Updated Protocol

Go to the MLS Laboratory Emergency Preparedness BT Binder site:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/labep/binder3.html> and scroll down to Tab 11. Use the link to access the website for the ASM Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines for Suspected Agents of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases. From this page, click on the link for “Packaging and Shipping” to download the new protocol and replace the current printed protocol that is under Tab 11 in your 3-ring binder labeled “Guidelines for LRN Advanced Sentinel Laboratories – 2006.”

Background

The Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines for Suspected Agents of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases for Packing and Shipping Infectious Substances were revised July 15, 2011 by author Larry Gray, Ph.D. The 2011 IATA revisions are shown in **RED** and the author’s revisions and clarifications are in **BLUE**. Federal regulations require that the staff in your laboratory who routinely package and ship potentially infectious materials must receive training on these protocols on a regular basis. For a nominal cost, you may access packaging and shipping training through the Association of Public Health Laboratories website at www.aphl.org/training/ondemand. There are also several other training options available from a variety of commercial vendors. ASM Sentinel Laboratory guidelines offer clinical microbiology laboratories standardized, practical methods to aid microbiologists in ruling out critical agents that may be used in a bioterrorist event or associated with an emerging infectious disease.

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****Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System****

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