

Ricin Toxin (*Ricinus communis*)

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratory Services (LA SPHL) (504) 219-4664 or (504) 219-4646, 24 Hour Number (504) 458-9537

Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology (800) 256-2748 (24 hours)

Remember that these samples may be highly infective! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.

Specimen Collection and Transport

Acceptable Samples:

Specimens best suited for testing include: paper, powders, soil or mud, water, food, beverage, environmental swabs (Dacron, rayon or foam, not cotton) and environmental wipes (non-cotton gauze, polyester blend materials).

Do not use glass for collection or transport of samples.

Testing Available:

Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Time Resolved Fluorescence (TRF).

Reporting:

All reporting times are the minimum time. Any individual specimen could take longer.

Presumptive results by Time Resolved Fluorescence (TRF) and PCR should be available in 4 hours. Samples will be referred to CDC for confirmation.