

Montana Laboratory Sentinel Newsletter

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, www.lab.hhs.mt.gov
January 22, 2018

New Laboratory Services Bureau Courier

On Monday, January 22, 2018, Spokane Courier Services LLC began providing courier service for the Laboratory Services Bureau.

Please refer to the laboratory courier website for scheduled sites and pickup times. Remember, the courier may run a little later than the set time due to road conditions. If a courier is unable to make a pickup due to road conditions, you will be notified.

In addition, the State will need to go out for a competitive bid for a new courier provider over the next couple of months in order to find a long-term contract.

We want to sincerely thank you again for your patience during this transition and will be sure to keep you informed.

If you are not serviced by our courier and do not have access to drop specimens/samples off at a designating site, please consider shipping via UPS. We can get an account set up for your facility at no cost, where you can create your own labels as needed for shipping.

Please contact the Montana Public Health Laboratory at 1-800-821-7284 if you have further questions of concerns. If you would like to set up a UPS account, please contact Angela Dusko at 406-444-3040 or Debbie Gibson at

406-444-5970.

This year's **Bioterrorism Preparedness for the Sentinel Laboratory workshop** will be held at the Montana Public Health Laboratory on Thursday, June 7th at the Cogswell Building in Helena. At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the role of the clinical laboratorian in the presumptive identification of suspect agents of bioterrorism.
- Explain the safety implications of handling suspect bioterrorism organisms in clinical presentation and biochemical characteristics of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Brucella* spp., *Burkholderia* spp., *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis*.
- Outline the process for referring suspect organisms to the Montana Public Health Laboratory.
- Meet the MTPHL laboratorians and tour the Public Health Laboratory, with the opportunity to perform tasks under BSL3 conditions.

We hope that one of your laboratorians can attend this informative, P.A.C.E accredited workshop. MTPHL pays for travel expenses related to this workshop. Please contact Crystal Fortune, cfortune@mt.gov or Lana Moyer, lmoyer@mt.gov for further details. We will be reaching out soon with registration information.