

Specimen Collection and Handling:

<u>Test category</u>	<u>Suitable/Specimen type</u>	<u>Volume/Collection</u>
Clostridium botulinum Adult – Suspected food borne botulism case	Serum	Use red top or separator type tubes to obtain serum (no anticoagulant). Enough blood should be collected to provide at least 10 mL of serum for mouse toxicity tests (usually 20 mL whole blood).
	Feces	10-50 g (English walnut) Place into sterile unbreakable container
	Gastric aspirate or vomitus	Place ~20 ml into sterile unbreakable container
Clostridium botulinum Adult- Suspected wound botulism case	Serum	Collect using routine laboratory protocol using red top or separator type tube (NO anticoagulants). Enough blood should be collected to provide at least 10 mL of serum for mouse toxicity tests (usually 20 mL whole blood).
	Feces	10-50 g (English walnut) Place into sterile unbreakable container
	Tissue	Place into sterile unbreakable container and label carefully. Specimens should be placed in Port-A-Cul vials.
Clostridium botulinum Infant – Suspected Infant botulism case	Feces	10-50 g (English walnut) Place into sterile unbreakable container
	Enema, if needed	Use minimal amount of sterile water or non-bacteriostatic water, place 20 ml of liquid into sterile, well-sealed, unbreakable container
Suspected Food case	Food specimens	Foods should be left in their original containers if possible, or placed in sterile unbreakable containers and labeled carefully. Place containers individually in leak-proof containers (i.e., sealed plastic bags) to prevent cross-contamination during shipment. Empty containers with remnants of suspected foods can be examined. Unopened commercial products may be transferred to FDA or USDA. If <i>C. Botulinum</i> toxin is suspected in a bioterror or criminal activity a Chain of Custody form is required in addition to the MDH Laboratories Administration test requisition form #4676. Refer to Chain of Custody Section below.