

Chemical/Bacterial Agent Transport (CBAT) Kit

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) – Laboratory Services Bureau (LSB) has developed a Chemical/Bacterial Agent Transport Kit for emergency situations. The kit is designed to collect unknown environmental agents that require further testing. These events are usually associated with suspicious mail or packages, such as a threatening letter addressed to an intended recipient (e.g., a governor, legislator, mayor, or business CEO).

The CBAT kits include collection instructions, Chain of Custody forms, sample containers, sampling devices (a spatula and transfer pipets), and evidence bags for collecting up to two samples from a facility or location during a suspected or credible threat event. Powders, liquids, and letters can be submitted as samples using these kits. Local authorities or hazardous materials handling professionals should be consulted before entering a potentially hazardous environment or a potential crime scene.

The LSB Public Health Laboratory is designated by the FBI and the CDC as the sole Laboratory Response Network – Biological (LRN-B) Reference Laboratory in Montana for confirmatory testing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) biothreat agents, regardless of field screening results. Samples identified as positive for a biothreat agent by the LSB are then sent to Quantico, VA, for FBI forensic testing.

When a CBAT kit is used, consultation with the MTLNB lab is required to coordinate kit transportation, arrange any special handling requirements, alert the necessary response partners (e.g., FBI WMD special agent, DES, medical surveillance groups), and coordinate potential actions by the state and federal laboratory networks.

These 141 CBAT kits are pre-positioned at all Montana county health departments, tribal jurisdictions, Regional Hazmat Teams, the 83rd National Guard Civil Support Team, Malmstrom Air Force Base (341st Emergency Management Flight), and the DPHHS LSB Laboratory. The LSB continues to present these kits at training sessions and meetings. The laboratory is excited about the increased response capability these kits provide. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

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