

**Table 2. Processing of Specimens for Detection of Possible Agents of Bioterrorism**

Suspected Agent	Specimen	Media <sup>1</sup>	Incubation <sup>2</sup>
<i>B. anthracis</i>	• Blood	BacT/Alert Bottles	BacT-Alert x 5 days <sup>3</sup>
	• Sputum	BA, CHOC, FAB	O <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 48 hrs
	• Stool	Routine & CNA	
	• Cutaneous/ nasal swab	BA, CHOC, FAB	O <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 48 hrs
<i>F. tularensis</i>	• Sputum, Bronchial washings, wounds, lymph nodes	BA, MAC, CHOC, BCYE	CO <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 72 hrs
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	• Blood, Bone marrow	BacT/Alert Bottles	BacT-Alert x 21 days <sup>3</sup> 5% CO <sub>2</sub> , 35°C x 7 days
	• Tissue, Wounds	BA, MAC, CHOC	
	• Serum	Forward to Central Public Health Lab for testing at room temperature	
<i>Y. pestis</i>	• Blood	BacT/Alert Bottles	BacT-Alert x 5 days <sup>3</sup>
	• Sputum, Bronchial washings, Tissues	BA, MAC, CHOC	O <sub>2</sub> , 28°C x 48 hrs
Botulism toxin ( <i>C. botulinum</i> )	• All	Forward to Central Public Health Lab for testing on wet ice	
Variola virus	• All	Forward to Central Public Health Lab for testing on wet or dry ice	

<sup>1</sup>BA = 5% Sheeps blood agar; MAC = MacConkey agar; CHOC = Chocolate Agar; BCYE = Buffered Charcoal Yeast Extract Agar; BRUC = Fastidious Anaerobic Agar, FAB=Fastidious anaerobic broth

<sup>2</sup>Examine plates at 18-24 hrs, 48 hrs and daily thereafter for suspicious colonies as noted below.

<sup>3</sup>Do not perform blind subcultures; If blood culture becomes positive, perform gram stain and subculture onto BA, CHOC, MAC. Add additional media as indicating by the gram stain.