

4/11/2024

**NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Call for Cases: Multistate Cluster of *Burkholderia multivorans*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) put out a call for cases due to *Burkholderia multivorans*. The CDC, in collaboration with state and local health departments, is investigating multi-jurisdictional clusters of infections due to *Burkholderia multivorans* in multiple jurisdictions following potential exposure to nonsterile ice and water from ice machines during clinical care activities. *B. multivorans* is a member of the *Burkholderia cepacia* complex, a group of closely related Gram-negative bacteria that can be found in soil and water and that have been associated with healthcare outbreaks. *B. multivorans* of the same strain as those identified from clinical isolates have been isolated from multiple ice machines from two of the affected hospitals across two states. Clinicians and other healthcare personnel should have a low threshold for reporting cases and clusters of *B. multivorans* to local or state public health authorities as outlined below.

No cases have been reported in Washington residents to date.

Actions Requested:

- Retain samples at the reporting laboratory for possible submission to CDC through Washington Public Health Laboratories (PHL) for additional testing
- Healthcare facilities and providers should report *B. multivorans* cases per the CDC definition to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
- Report patients with:
 - Newly diagnosed *Burkholderia multivorans* infection or colonization confirmed via culture (specimen from any body site),
 - Specimen collected between January 1, 2022, to present, AND
 - Admission to an acute care hospital for at least 48 hours in the 14 days prior to specimen collection.
- Hospitalized patients should be cared for using standard precautions. Alert laboratories that might receive specimens from a person with suspected Burkholderia infection

Laboratory/Sample Collection:

- Call Thurston County Public Health and Social Services at 360-867-2610 and/or Communicable Disease Epidemiology at 206-418-5500 for approval before collecting and shipping specimens.
- Note that PHL requires all clinical specimens have two patient identifiers, a name and a second identifier (e.g., date of birth) both on the specimen label and on the submission form. Specimens will be rejected if not properly identified.

**Route specimens through Thurston County Public Health & Social Services to expedite testing
 (do not use commercial laboratory)**

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1. **Isolates:** Submit isolates with a completed PHL Bioterrorism requisition form <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-018-BioterrorismSpecimen.pdf>. Ship at ambient temperature.
2. **Culture:** Submit fluids (sputum, urine) or tissue in a sterile leak-proof container with a completed PHL Bioterrorism requisition form <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-018-BioterrorismSpecimen.pdf>. Ship cold, not frozen except if unable to ship urine or tissue within 72 hours, freeze urine or tissue and then ship frozen on dry ice.
3. **PCR:** Collect whole blood in a lavender-top EDTA tube with a completed PHL Bioterrorism requisition form <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/5230/302-018-BioterrorismSpecimen.pdf>. Ship cold, not frozen unless unable to ship within 72 hours, then freeze and ship frozen on dry ice.
4. **Serology:** Collect 1–2 ml of both acute and convalescent sera (collected at least two weeks apart). If the specimen is freshly collected or still refrigerated, then ship cold, not frozen, on regular cold packs. If the specimen is already frozen, keep it frozen during transport by shipping on dry ice. Complete the submission form according to PHL requirements <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/public-health-laboratories/lab-test-menu>. For questions regarding shipping and handling, laboratories can call PHL (206-418-5400).

Resources:

- Washington State Department of Health – Burkholderia guideline: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/5100/420-216-Guideline-Burkholderia.pdf>
- Washington Department of Health- Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/5240/SCSI-B-pseudomallei-V1.pdf>

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day): Reporting a Notifiable Condition (thurstoncountywa.gov)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 1-833-418-1916
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Calls are answered during business hours Monday-Friday 8am-5pm (excluding holidays) and routed to the appropriate communicable disease team member.	Phone: 360-867-2610 Secure eFax: 1-833-418-1916
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable or a public health emergency	Call 1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: [Communicable Disease Updates \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/Communicable-Disease-Updates)