

## BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE TRIAGE GUIDELINES

### Category 1 – HIGH PRIORITY

**Clinical specimens** and culture isolates from cases of illness with signs and symptoms judged by a clinician or epidemiologist as consistent with infection/intoxication due to a recognized BT agent.

**Environmental sample** collected from a scene or associated with an event that is deemed a credible threat for a named BT agent by an FBI agent in conjunction with law enforcement and the WV Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

**ACTION: Perform testing IMMEDIATELY upon receipt (24/7).**

### Category 2 – INTERMEDIATE PRIORITY

**Clinical specimens** from cases of illness with low probability of causation by a BT agent (i.e., ill patient, but clinical symptoms not typical for BT agent).

**Environmental sample** associated with a criminal act (felony menacing, hoax) for which a specific BT agent is named, but is not a credible threat.

**ACTION: Perform testing on the NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS DAY.**

### Category 3 – LOW PRIORITY

**Clinical specimens** from patients with no discernible illness or specimen obtained for epidemiologic studies.

**Environmental sample** from a non-credible threat.

**ACTION: DO NOT SUBMIT. No testing performed. May refer submitters to private or commercial laboratory for identification.**