



Section of Epidemiology (SOE) Checklist: Diagnosis and Treatment of Botulism

Diagnosis

- Establish the presence of **signs and symptoms** consistent with botulism:
 - recent (1-10 days) consumption of traditionally prepared Native foods (seal, whale, salmon, beaver tail or paw, seal oil, etc.) or home canned foods (tomatoes, green beans)
 - neurological: dry mouth, dysphagia, diplopia, blurry vision, bilateral dilated or unreactive pupils
 - gastrointestinal/urinary: abdominal pain, diarrhea, intestinal ileus, nausea, vomiting or urinary retention
 - muscular: dyspnea, fatigue, respiratory muscle paralysis, symmetrical skeletal weakness

(See: *Botulism in Alaska*. 2017. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/siteassets/Pages/botulism/monograph.pdf>)

Report and obtain antitoxin

- Report any suspect botulism** cases immediately (e-mail to team). *Initiate Epi Bot Case Report Form.
- Alert the hospital pharmacy to obtain and release antitoxin for patient use.

REQUIRED specimens

Before administration of antitoxin, collect blood!

- 20 mls of blood (red top/serum separator, spin, do NOT aliquot), note collection time!**
- 20 mls of emesis** or gastric aspirates (prefer before antitoxin)



Think 20-20-10 before antitoxin!

- 10-50 grams of stool** (can be collected at any time)
- Collect **suspected food** if available, hold in lab, and contact SOE.
 - Pack and ship to ASPHL in original container, do NOT aliquot.
 - Prefer using duct tape to ensure secure packing for seal oil prior to shipping.
- Refrigerate samples**, not frozen.
- Ship** samples in individual separate sealed bags.
- Call ASPHL at 855-222-9918 to notify** them of samples sent.

Antitoxin Administration

- Closely monitor patient for any signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis, note time antitoxin was initiated.**
Administer BAT[®] according to insert, <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/Botulism/BATPacket.pdf>
- Pharmacist** will need to complete form and fax to 907-269-0472 to replenish your BAT[®] supply.

Contact the Public Health Nurse

- Notify local PHN, report and request assistance as needed (i.e., collect food samples, monitoring).
- Closely monitor others, who shared suspect food for any signs or symptoms of botulism for next 10 days (see monitoring form).

Specimen shipping information

- Send specimens: ATTN: **Special Pathogens**, Alaska State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL), 5455 Dr MLK Jr Ave., Anchorage 99507. Seal all oil or liquid samples with duct tape. Include *Anchorage Lab Request Form*.
For more info: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Documents/LaboratoryTests.pdf>

E-mail to CDC: Kevin Chatham-Stephens xdc4@cdc.gov, Seth Edmunds wex2@cdc.gov and Mike Judd vuj4@cdc.gov

- Send age, sex, hospital city, onset date, suspected vehicle, type (i.e., foodborne)