Biological Agent Threat Assessment

Explosive/radiological/chemical hazard ruled out?

- **NO**
  - Isolate, evacuate, notify nearest bomb disposal team
  - Flip card, follow protocol from STEP 1

- **YES**
  - Implied or threatening message?
    - **YES**
      - Can object be placed in one-gallon sealable bag?
        - **NO**
          - Flip card, follow protocol from STEP 1
        - **YES**
          - Flip card, follow protocol from STEP 3 (use object in place of tube)
    - **NO**
      - Detectable substances PLUS one of the following:
        1. Agency/individual recently threatened
        2. Agency/individual visible/controversial
        3. Weight, unusual packaging or addresses, excessive postage
      - Flip card, follow protocol from STEP 1

Any detectable substances (Powder, grease, oil, odors)?

- **NO**
  - Low Risk Threat
  - Follow SOP

- **YES**
  - Detectable substances PLUS one of the following:
    1. Agency/individual recently threatened
    2. Agency/individual visible/controversial
    3. Weight, unusual packaging or addresses, excessive postage
    - Flip card, follow protocol from STEP 1
Protocol for Biological Agent Collection, Package, and Transport

**STEP 1**
*(BEFORE ENTERING SCENE)*

Remove sterile, rayon swab tube from outer packaging, number/label tubes.

**STEP 2:**
*(HOT/EXCLUSION ZONE)*

**DRY SAMPLING** *(PREFERRED METHOD)*

- Rotate swab over 3” x 3” area of sample to be collected
  - Place swab back into tube and tightly close cap

**OR**

**DRY SAMPLING** *(larger quantity)*

- Use plastic spoon to scoop available powder
  - Place powder into 50mL plastic tube and tightly close cap

**WET SAMPLING**

- Insert swab over 3” x 3” area of sample to be collected
  - Rotate saline-dampened swab into pink tube to wet with saline.

**STEP 3:**
*(HOT/EXCLUSION ZONE)*

- Place closed tube(s) in separate, gallon-sized sealable bags; Seal
  - *Spray outside of bag with 10% bleach solution, leave on bag
  - Place each decontaminated bag inside a second, separate bag; Seal
  - Spray outside of second bag with 10% bleach solution (leave on bag)

**STEP 4:**
*(WARM/SUPPORT ZONE)*

- Transfer double-bagged sample into clean, one gallon paint can
- Spray outside of can with 10% bleach solution; air dry 15-20 min.
- Secure can in transport vehicle (DOH or Law Enforcement)
- Transport to Florida DOH Lab

**NOTE:**

- *10% bleach solution should be made fresh daily or on-scene.

Developed by the USF Center for Biological Defense in conjunction with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Tampa Police Department Bomb Squad, and the Florida Department of Health.

Please contact Amanda Shaw at ashaw@health.usf.edu for changes, updates or revisions.