



National Microbiology Laboratory Branch  
Bioforensics Assay Development and Diagnostics Section  
1015 Arlington Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3R2

October, 2023

Stakeholders of the BADD Section, National Microbiology Laboratory

This letter is to inform you that the Bioforensics Assay Development and Diagnostics section at the National Microbiology Laboratory Branch (NMLB) has issued a new requisition form. We ask all clients use the current requisition form to submit specimens for testing via your provincial health lab. Please ensure that the patient information sections including clinical symptoms, patient history and travel history are completed as this information supports our reporting and record keeping when consulting with our partner federal agencies.

We would also like to highlight the need for evidence of clinical illness as well as an epidemiological link to exposure via an animal or environmental contact or travel for serology requests for *Brucella spp* and *Francisella tularensis* as per our Guide to Services. Testing requests that do not include this information may be rejected. Please note that a positive serology result on a single specimen can only provide evidence of probable exposure. Confirmation of exposure must be by isolation of the pathogen from an appropriate clinical specimen, with identification by PCR and biochemical testing, or by serological differences of fourfold or greater in paired acute and convalescent serum samples.

Please see our updated Guide to Services for more information and to download the current requisition:

<https://cnphi.canada.ca/gts/laboratory/1024>

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the laboratory.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth McLachlan  
Head, Diagnostic and Reference Services  
Bioforensics Assay Development and Diagnostics, NMLB