

VS Memo 580.4 Guidance Document Scenarios

1. Good communication takes place between the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) and the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC). The decision is made to send samples to a NAHLN laboratory in the State where the sick animals are located, and to the NVSL. A Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) is sent to the farm or establishment and two sets of samples are collected with one set being sent to the NVSL and the other set being sent to the NAHLN laboratory. The NAHLN laboratory can only perform assays for FAD agents for which they have successfully completed the prescribed proficiency tests.

- A) The NAHLN results are negative, and come back before the NVSL results. The NVSL results for all tests come back negative, but the final results may take 10 days or more to complete virus isolation.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - The farm or establishment is treated as a “suspect premises” until the final NVSL test results are known, but there is a high level of confidence that the premises is negative for an FAD once the initial NVSL results are reported to be the same (negative) as the NAHLN results.
 - The initial results from both the NAHLN laboratory and the NVSL that the premises most likely does not have an FAD gives the State Animal Health Official important information which helps deal with any FAD response and quarantine issues.
- B) The NAHLN results are “presumptive positive,” and come back before any NVSL results. The initial NVSL results, and later the final NVSL results, come back as positive, after the NAHLN results are known.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - The early results from the NAHLN testing support the possibility that the premises may have an FAD and sets the State Animal Health Official into motion making plans on how to handle the situation, so that when the initial NVSL positive results are reported a plan is ready to be implemented.
- C) The NAHLN results are negative, and come back before the NVSL results. The initial and final NVSL results come back as positive after the NAHLN results are reported.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - The farm or establishment is treated as a “suspect premises” until the final NVSL test results are known. After the initial NVSL results are known, the premises is treated as positive and an FAD response is initiated, assuming the clinical and epidemiological picture is consistent with the suspected FAD. The NVSL and the NAHLN laboratory will work together to resolve the reasons behind the discordant results.

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- D) The NAHLN results are “presumptive positive,” and come back before any NVSL results. The initial NVSL results, and later the final NVSL results, come back as negative, sometime after the NAHLN results are known.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - See discordant results plan. The initial NVSL negative results (PCR, ELISA, etc.) should be available within hours of the samples reaching the NVSL. At the first sign of discordant results from the two laboratories the discordant result plan will go into effect.
2. The FADD is not aware that there is a desire to have samples sent to both the NVSL and a NAHLN laboratory, so only one set of samples is collected.

When only one set of samples is collected they **must** go to the NVSL. If there is a strong desire on the part of the SAHO or the AVIC to have samples go to a NAHLN laboratory the following may be considered:

- A) If there is enough material to split the samples before they are shipped this could be done by the FADD. This assumes that the desire to have samples sent to a NAHLN laboratory is communicated to the FADD before the samples are shipped to the NVSL.
- B) Even though there is a strong desire to have samples sent to a NAHLN laboratory, it cannot happen this time, and a lesson has been learned to make sure that the next time a FADD makes a FAD investigation he/she understands what is expected with respect to sample collection.
3. Good communication takes place between the State Animal Health Official and the AVIC of the State where the sick animals are located. This State does not have a NAHLN laboratory. The decision is made to send samples to a NAHLN laboratory located in a nearby State, and with whom the State with the sick animals has an agreement to ship samples. The AVIC(s) and State Animal Health Officials in both States, and the NAHLN Laboratory Director, are contacted to make sure that all are informed of the sample collection and submission plan. An FADD is sent to the premises and two sets of samples are collected with one set being sent to the NVSL and the other set being sent to the NAHLN laboratory.

- A) The NAHLN results are negative, and come back before the NVSL results. The NVSL results for all tests come back negative, but the final results may take 10 days or more to complete virus isolation.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.

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- The farm or establishment is treated as a “suspect premises” until the final NVSL test results are known, but there is a high level of confidence that the premises is negative for an FAD once the initial NVSL results are reported to be the same (negative) as the NAHLN results.
 - The initial results from both the NAHLN laboratory and the NVSL that the premises most likely does not have an FAD gives the State Animal Health Official important information which helps deal with any FAD response and quarantine issues.
- B) The NAHLN results are “presumptive positive,” and come back before any NVSL results. The initial NVSL results, and later the final NVSL results, come back as positive, after the NAHLN results are known.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - The early results from the NAHLN testing support the possibility that the premises may have an FAD and sets the State Animal Health Official in motion making plans on how to handle the situation, so that when the initial NVSL positive results are reported a plan is ready to be implemented.
- C) The NAHLN results are negative, and come back before the NVSL results. The initial and final NVSL results come back as positive after the NAHLN results are reported.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - The farm or establishment is treated as a “suspect premises” until the final NVSL test results are known. After the initial NVSL results are known, the premises is treated as positive and an FAD response is initiated, assuming the clinical and epidemiological picture is consistent with the suspected FAD. The NVSL and the NAHLN laboratory will work together to resolve the reasons behind the discordant results.
- D) The NAHLN results are “presumptive positive,” and come back before any NVSL results. The initial NVSL results, and later the final NVSL results, come back as negative, sometime after the NAHLN results are known.
- The NAHLN Laboratory Director or designee communicates test results to others as outlined in the current version of VS Memo 580.4.
 - See discordant results plan. The initial NVSL negative results (PCR, ELISA, etc.) should be available within hours of the samples reaching the NVSL. At the first sign of discordant results from the two laboratories the discordant result plan will go into effect.

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4. When a diagnostic laboratory suspects it has a FAD.

A) Samples are submitted to a state veterinary diagnostic laboratory for routine testing.

- The state veterinary diagnostic laboratory is **not** NAHLN laboratory and samples are deemed a possible FAD by the diagnostic laboratory staff based upon available clinical and epidemiology information of the accession.
- The State Animal Health Official and the AVIC must be notified immediately.
- The State Animal Health Official and the AVIC will determine if an FAD investigation should be initiated.
- If the decision is made to begin an FAD investigation all procedures outlined in VS Memorandum 580.4, Section V, will be followed, and the AVIC or the State Animal Health Official may direct that some, or all, of the original submitted sample will be sent to the NVSL or a NAHLN laboratory in a neighboring state that is certified to perform appropriate screening tests for the FADs of interest.

B) Samples are submitted to a state veterinary diagnostic laboratory for routine testing.

- The state veterinary diagnostic laboratory is a NAHLN laboratory and is approved to perform the appropriate screening tests for the FADs of interest.
- The submission is for a “FAD look-alike disease” such as contagious ovine ecthyma (orf) in sheep (a “look-alike disease” of foot and mouth disease). There is no indication of FAD from the submitting field veterinarian nor a suspicion of FAD by the laboratory staff based upon clinical signs or epidemiology information of the accession.
- The NAHLN laboratory conducts a screening test for FAD as part of routine disease screening and results are positive for a FAD.
- The State Animal Health Official, AVIC, and NVSL must be notified immediately by the NAHLN laboratory.
- The State Animal Health Official and the AVIC will determine how an FAD investigation should be initiated following all procedures outlined in VS Memorandum 580.4, Section V.
- The AVIC or the State Animal Health Official may direct that some, or all, of the original submitted sample may be sent to the NVSL, or that additional samples will be collected.
- The State Animal Health Official and the AVIC may direct additional samples be split and sent to the NAHLN laboratory and NVSL.