Submission Priority at the NVSL

Last Modified:

Submissions arriving at the NVSL are categorized for priority of processing. Mark the priority of a submission on a special label affixed to the outside of the shipping container and on the submittal form. A special label for this purpose is provided in all NVSL-supplied shipping containers.

For assistance in determining the most appropriate priority, contact the Assistant District Director for your State.

Any specimens received without a priority rating will be handled as Priority 3.

The NVSL Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) **must** be contacted by phone prior to shipment or transport of **all** diagnostic samples regardless of Priority 1, 2, 3, or A diagnostic sample designation. Arrangements must always be made to pick up the diagnostic samples from the Federal Express office, or meet a courier, or meet counter-to-counter service at an airport or other location. Unless FADDL is notified by phone prior to the shipment or transport, the diagnostic samples will be delayed in delivery to FADDL.

Priority 1

This priority is used when prompt laboratory diagnostic information is required because known investigation information makes it highly likely that the observed condition is a foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident (FAD/EDI). Specimens will be unpacked and examined, and diagnostic assays will begin immediately upon arrival at the NVSL. Overtime will be used if necessary. Results will be reported by telephone, fax, and/or computer, according to program procedures, immediately as results are obtained (including progress reports) and upon completion of laboratory examination (final report).

Contact the NVSL (regardless of destination laboratory) prior to shipping a Priority 1 submission.

NVSL-Ames phone contact information during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Monday–Friday):

Laboratory	Phone Number
NVSL Main Line	515-337-7266
Diagnostic Bacteriology	515-337-7568
Diagnostic Virology	515-337-7551
Diagnostic Pathobiology	515-337-7521

NVSL-Ames phone contact information after hours and weekends (24/7):

Contact	Phone Number
National Centers for Animal Health Dispatch	515-337-7266

NVSL-Plum Island (FADDL) phone contact information during business hours (8:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday):

Contact	Phone Number
Main Office	631-323-3256 or 631-323-3206

NVSL-Plum Island (FADDL) phone contact information after hours and weekends (24/7):

Contact	Phone Number
FADDL Director	631-375-5314
Diagnostic Services Section Head	631-323-6814
Courier	631-377-9877
If unable to reach any of the above, contact National Centers for Animal Health Dispatch.	515-337-7266

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Priority 2

This priority is used when known investigation information indicates it is possible that the observed condition is an FAD/EDI, but it cannot be distinguished from an endemic disease/condition. Therefore, rapid laboratory diagnostic information is necessary. Specimens will be processed the day they are received if the samples reach the laboratory before the close of the workday. Overtime will be used to finish the examination of specimens received before the close of the workday on weekdays and for those received on weekends and holidays. Specimens arriving after the close of the work day will be examined the following day, including weekends. Results will be reported by telephone, fax, and/or computer as they are obtained (progress) and when examination is completed (final).

Contact FADDL, using the phone numbers shown above, prior to shipping a Priority 2 submission to Plum Island.

Priority 3

This priority is used when known investigation information indicates it is unlikely that the observed condition is an FAD/EDI and cannot be distinguished from an enzootic disease or condition. No overtime will be used for these non-emergency cases. Specimens will be processed according to accession number order, unless otherwise directed by the NVSL Case Coordinator or Laboratory Director. A specimen arriving after 4:00 p.m. on Friday will not be processed until Monday or later, depending on the current backlog of cases.

Contact FADDL, using the phone numbers shown above, prior to shipping a Priority 3 submission to Plum Island.

Priority A

This priority is used for those situations where any animals in commerce are held pending the results of testing for an FAD/EDI. It can also be used when other known or potential circumstances surrounding the investigation indicate that it would be prudent to obtain laboratory test results as rapidly as possible, regardless of the likelihood of the presence of an FAD/EDI. Priority A samples are processed in the same manner as Priority 1 samples.

Contact the NVSL (regardless of destination) prior to shipping a Priority A submission. Use the phone numbers shown above.

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