

The NYSDOH Wadsworth Center has created the **Code Red Biothreat Collection Kit** as a supplemental tool to the *Code Red: Biological Agent Sampling Protocol* quick response card. The **Code Red Biothreat Collection Kit** is intended for the collection, packaging, and transport of biothreat samples (i.e., bioagents or toxins). Suspected biothreat samples should only be collected by informed and appropriately trained first responders following appropriate risk and credibility assessments as detailed in the *Code Red: Biological Agent Sampling Protocol* quick response card. If Code Red training is required, please contact the Wadsworth Center's Biodefense Laboratory for availability and scheduling at (518) 474-4177.

*Please note: if a chemical agent is suspected, please avoid area and contact HazMat immediately (NYS Fire: 518-474-6746).*

Credible biothreat samples (i.e., potential criminal acts) should be analyzed at one of the four New York State facilities in the federal Laboratory Response Network (LRN). These facilities include:

- **Wadsworth Center Biodefense Laboratory** (518) 474-4177
- **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** (212) 447-1091  
(for samples originating in the 5 boroughs of New York City)
- **Erie County Public Health Laboratory Biodefense Laboratory** (716) 898-6100
- **Westchester County Division of Laboratories and Research Biodefense Laboratory** (914) 231-1610  
or (914) 231-1600

*The appropriate testing laboratory must be contacted prior to sample transport as special collection or transport arrangements may be necessary.*

For more detailed information regarding the collection and submission of Biothreat samples, please refer to the *Environmental Samples – Protocols for Collection and Packaging for Select Agent Testing* document posted on the New York State's secure Health Provider Network (HPN) at: [https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/hanweb/lab/environmental\\_samples.pdf](https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/hanweb/lab/environmental_samples.pdf)

If you are uncertain about which testing facility to contact, please call the Wadsworth Center Biodefense Laboratory at:

Monday – Friday (8:00am - 5:00pm) (518) 474-4177  
After Hours Duty Officer (866) 881-2809

**Code Red Biothreat Collection Kits** have been distributed to NYS Police and NYS Fire. Additional kits may be requested through the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center State Order Desk (518) 474-4175 (voice), or (518) 474-8590 (fax). Orders should include organization name; street address (no PO box); floor/suite/room number; name and telephone number of contact person; name of kit (Code Red Biothreat Sample Collection Kit, DOH 4348); and number of kits requested. At this time, orders will be limited to 1 kit per request. If your agency would like to obtain additional kits, the reorder information for all contents is included in each kit for your reference.