



Dallas County Health & Human Services
Bioterrorism Laboratory Division
Zachary Thompson, Director

January 13, 2010

To: Laboratory Directors, Supervisors and Lab personnel:

Welcome to the Dallas County Health and Human Services Bioterrorism Response Laboratory (DCHHS BT Lab). Our lab is part of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), which is a national asset that coordinates laboratory resources for preparedness and response to biological terrorism and Natural Disasters. Our vision is to work together to ensure excellence in laboratory practice for a healthy community. The goal is to provide the community with a rapid response to a suspected bioterrorism event.

While we provide confirmation, law enforcement support, and pre-event planning, the first detection of an event will likely occur in clinical laboratories or other sentinel laboratories. Therefore, we would like to offer your laboratory the appropriate training for Shipping Diagnostic and Infectious specimens. The Saf-T-Pak Training will cover specimen classification, legal documentation, marking & labeling, packaging & handling and much more. The one day seminar is designed to train and certify those who handle, ship and transport infectious specimens and non-infectious specimens in accordance with IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR. As part of the seminar, you will receive a manual and a certificate of completion. Each course ends with a practical packaging session where participants are required to correctly pack, mark, and document a shipment.

It is our hope that one or two laboratory employees from your facility can attend this Saf-T-Pak training course. This course is provided at no cost to you. Your lab or hospital is entitled to send as many people as you feel necessary. The date and time for the session will be **Tuesday February 23, 2010 from 9:00am to 4:00pm**. It will be held at the Dallas County Health and Human Services building located at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX, room 627-B. Please contact Joey Stringer by email to confirm attendance.

Thank you,

Dr. Ed Bannister
Laboratory Director
ebannis@dallascounty.org
(O) 214-819-1952
(C) 214-677-7876

Joey Stringer
BT Lab Supervisor
jstringer@dallascounty.org
(O) 972-692-2762
(C) 972-342-5605

Alero Joe
BT Microbiologist
ajoe@dallascounty.org
(O) 972-692-2764
(C) 214-677-7894

Tameaka Sutton-Shields
BT Microbiologist
Tameaka.Shields@dallascounty.org
(O) 972692-2761