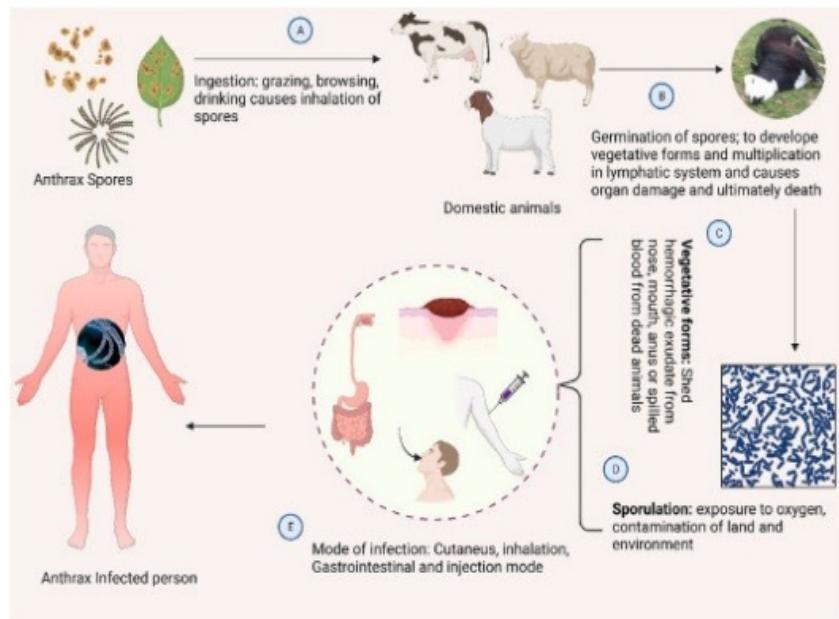


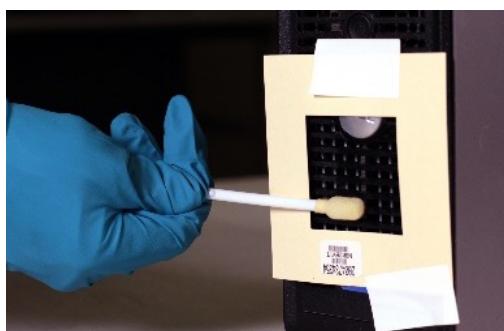
# ANTHRAX TESTING IN SURFACE WIPE SAMPLES

Anthrax is caused by *Bacillus anthracis*. *Bacillus anthracis* is a “biosafety level 3 pathogen” that can affect livestock naturally and can cause severe illness in humans. People can get sick with anthrax upon contact with infected animals or by breathing in spores of *Bacillus anthracis* through food or drink and through contaminated animal products.

Most of the anthrax outbreaks worldwide have been restricted to exposure to infected animal carcasses or animal products. Anthrax is a rare disease in the USA. However, bioterrorism related anthrax attacks have resulted from inhalation, or cutaneous anthrax due to exposure to particulate aerosols containing *Bacillus anthracis* when opening letters or when letters were processed in postal facilities.



In response to bioterrorism attacks or accidental release of *Bacillus anthracis* spores, environmental samples such as surface swabs, wipes, filters, sponge sicks, and drinking water would need to be rapidly processed and analyzed to assess the extent of contamination and support decontamination efforts. One such method includes the detection for the presence of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of *Bacillus anthracis* using real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in environmental samples during incidents involving contamination from *Bacillus anthracis* spores.



Pace® Analytical National Laboratory offers a RT-PCR assay to test for the presence of DNA of *Bacillus anthracis* in environmental wipe samples.

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