

**Cover Sheet for Example Documentation
for PHAB Domain 2 Standard 1 Measure 3**

The following documentation has been submitted to ASTHO for the Accreditation Library as a potential example of Health Department documentation that might meet the PHAB Standard and Measure 2.1.3 This document is not intended to be a template, but is a reference as state health agencies develop and select accreditation documentation specific to the health department's activities.

Please note that the inclusion of documentation in this library does not indicate official approval or acceptance by PHAB.

Document Title:	MSDH Department of Epidemiology Response Summary: 2013 Tupelo, MS Ricin Event						
Document Date:	03.17.2014						
Version of Standards and Measures Used: V 1.5							
Related PHAB Standard and Measure Number							
Domain:	2	Standard:	1	Measure:	3	Required Documentation:	1
<p>Short description of how this document meets the Standard and Measure's requirements:</p> <p>This document, <i>MSDH Department of Epidemiology Response Summary: 2013 Tupelo, MS Ricin Event</i>, along with the attached letters, demonstrates MSDH's ability to investigate and respond to a non-infectious public health event in collaboration with state and federal partners.</p>							
Submitting Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health						
Staff Contact Name:	Katherine Richardson						
Staff Contact Position:	Accreditation Specialist						



MSDH Department of Epidemiology Response Summary: 2013 Tupelo, MS Ricin Event

Summary of Events: MSDH was contacted by Jackson, MS FBI 4/29/2013 to assist with response to two facilities potentially contaminated with ricin toxin in Tupelo, MS. As a part of an ongoing investigation, FBI had taken over two separate structures (one a private residence and another a commercial building) as crime scenes. Assessments of waste-water processing revealed no concerns of a broader public health impact beyond the facilities. In order to release the facilities back to the owners following the investigation phase, FBI requested the assistance of MSDH, MDEQ (Mississippi Department for Environmental Quality) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for remediation and clearance of facilities for habitation. Extensive testing was performed (collected by EPA) to identify areas of potential ricin contamination. Testing of samples was performed at the MSDH PHL (Public Health Lab) **using PCR and toxin based assays**. Extensive environmental cleaning was conducted by EPA and contaminated, disposable building components were removed and disposed of. Post-remediation testing revealed evidence of residual contamination at the commercial location, requiring the removal and disposal of the contaminated items. On July 12 and July 17, 2013 the residential structure and the commercial structure, respectively were released back to the owners following coordinated review between MSDH, MDEQ and EPA.

Timeline of Events:

4/29/2013: MSDH contacted by FBI for assistance in facility remediation and clearance.

5/9/2013: Coordination calls between MSDH, EPA and MDEQ.

5/10/2013: Formal request for EPA involvement from MDEQ initiated.

5/11/2013: Owners of facilities contacted to review remediation and clearance processes.

5/16/2013: Reviewed transfer of facility from FBI to EPA, pending review of defense attorneys for ricin suspect.

5/20/2013: MSDH, EPA and MDEQ review initial findings of FBI environmental investigation in preparation for remediation.

6/2/2013 – 6/3/2013: Initial site assessments of structures by EPA. Remediation of commercial site conducted by EPA. Residential facility had no evidence of residual contamination.

6/4/2013: Repeat ricin environmental testing with positive PCR from 3 locations. Involved areas removed for disposal.

6/28/2013: Conference between EPA, MSDH, and MDEQ to review remediation, lab findings and to arrange for clearance of facilities.

7/12/2013 & 7/17/2013: Letters of clearance submitted to facility owners by MSDH (see attached).



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

July 12, 2013

Dear [redacted],

This is to advise that the property described as "trailer located at [redacted]" is not considered a public health hazard at this time. Based upon collaboration between the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, it is determined that the aforementioned facility is safe for routine use and habitation in accordance with its previous use.

We appreciate your time and cooperation in addressing this potential public health issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Mississippi State Department of Health



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

July 17, 2013

Dear Ms. Dobbs:

This is to advise that the property located at _____, is not considered a public health hazard at this time. Based upon collaboration between the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, it is determined that the aforementioned facility is safe for routine use and habitation in accordance with its previous use.

We appreciate your time and cooperation in addressing this potential public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs".

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Mississippi State Department of Health