

# Free-Living Ameba Testing at CDC

## Free-Living and Intestinal Amebas (FLIA) Laboratory

### Requirements for submitting diagnostic specimens to the Free-Living and Intestinal Amebas (FLIA) Laboratory, Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch, CDC

#### Send an email to [CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov](mailto:CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov) with the following:

1. Brief clinical history including any relevant exposures, past medical history, and treatment
2. Summary of laboratory testing already performed
3. Listing of available specimen types (CSF, brain, skin, or other tissue, corneal scraping, and state–fresh, frozen, formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded, etc.)

NOTE: If submitting formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded specimens, please send your inquiry to [pathology@cdc.gov](mailto:pathology@cdc.gov) and follow instructions for submission to the Infectious Disease Pathology Branch.

#### Once you receive approval by email to submit the specimens to the FLIA Lab:

1. Electronically fill, save, and print both pages of the Specimen Submission Form [CDC 50.34](#).  
One form is required for **each** specimen being submitted (for example, if CSF and brain tissue are being submitted, then two forms must be completed, one for each specimen).
  - a. The form **must be filled electronically** to generate 3 barcodes used for accessioning.
  - b. Email addresses of the Original and State Public Health Lab (SPHL) submitters are **mandatory fields**.
2. Select [Test Order Code CDC-10286](#) “Ameba Identification (*Acanthamoeba*, *Balamuthia*, *Naegleria*)”
  - a. Click on the test order code hyperlink above for specific specimen collection and shipment instructions.
  - b. If interested in “Ameba Serology” testing, please consult with the FLIA Lab first.

#### Mailing/Contact Info:

- Shipping address:  
CDC STAT Lab  
Attn: Unit 53 (Ibne Ali)  
1600 Clifton Rd NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329, USA
- Mail in suitable packaging for delivery Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays.
- Send tracking number to [CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov](mailto:CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov) – this is absolutely necessary when testing is urgent.
- Tel: 404-718-4157, Fax: 404-718-4197, Email: [CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov](mailto:CDCFLIALab@cdc.gov)