

CL PCR Testing

ABOUT: Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) is a chronic, contagious disease of sheep and goats caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. The disease is characterized by abscesses in lymph nodes and internal organs. PCR testing directly detects the bacterial DNA, offering a rapid and sensitive alternative to culture or serology.

SYMPTOMS: Animals may develop abscesses in peripheral lymph nodes ("external form") or internal organs ("internal form"). The external form is more common in goats, while the internal form is more common in sheep.

PREVENTION: No fully effective vaccine exists. Prevention is based on strict biosecurity, culling affected animals, and diagnostic testing to reduce herd transmission. PCR allows for quicker identification of infected animals compared to traditional methods.

GETTING TESTED: For PCR testing, submit ~1 mL of pus or tissue material from an abscess in a sterile, leak-proof container (10 mL ear notch tube preferred). Refrigerate immediately after collection and ship overnight on ice packs.

A PCR-positive confirms the presence of *C. pseudotuberculosis* DNA, but does not by itself indicate disease severity or progression.

Interpretation should consider herd history and clinical findings.

CL PCR tests are processed and results reported on Wednesday.

