



ATTENTION PROVIDERS:

HEROIN MAY BE CONTAMINATED WITH BOTULISM

ANTITOXIN must be requested from Public Health **ASAP**



1. Establish presence of **SIGNS**:

- Acute bilateral cranial nerve palsies (e.g., diplopia, ptosis, dysarthria)
- Symmetric descending weakness/paralysis
- Possible progression to respiratory failure



2. Determine if patient has risk factors for **WOUND BOTULISM**:

- Heroin use
- Subcutaneous or intramuscular injection (skin or muscle “popping”)



3. **CALL** your Department of Public Health for antitoxin, botulism testing, and consultation:

LA County: (213) 240-7941 After Hours: (213) 974-1234

Long Beach: (562) 570-4302 After Hours: (562) 500-5537

Pasadena: (626) 744-6089 After Hours: (626) 744-6043

Antitoxin **MUST** be administered **ASAP**:

- Treatment halts progression but does not reverse symptoms
- Do **NOT** wait for lab confirmation or debridement

More guidance available at:

LA County Public Health: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Botulism.htm>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/botulism/>



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health