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WHEN TO SUSPECT HIGH BIOSAFETY RISK AGENTS

A. Presumptive diagnosis provided:

- **SUSPECT** relevant agents listed in this procedure

B. Gram stain results:

- Small, gram-negative bacilli or coccobacilli from sterile sites
- **SUSPECT** *Brucella* spp. and *Francisella* spp.

C. Gram stain results:

- Gram-negative diplococci from sterile sites
- **SUSPECT** *Neisseria meningitidis*

NOTE: *Neisseria meningitidis* is a Risk Group 2 organism, but given the potential for serious infection, culture should be treated like a Risk Group 3 organism

D. Culture results:

- Slow-growing, gram-negative bacilli/coccobacilli from all sites
- **SUSPECT** *Brucella* spp., *Francisella* spp., *Yersinia pestis*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei* or *Burkholderia mallei*

E. Culture results:

- Rapid-growing, non-hemolytic colonies with ground-glass appearance often exhibiting comma-shaped protrusions from colony edge ("Medusa head" colonies)
- **SUSPECT** *Bacillus anthracis*

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