

Major Stakeholders:

The Division of Laboratory Systems



- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officers
- American Clinical Laboratory Association
- CDC National Center for Infectious Diseases
- American Society for Microbiology
- CDC Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Endorsed by:

American Medical Association
American Academy of Family Practitioners
American College of Preventive Medicine

Public Health Practice Program Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

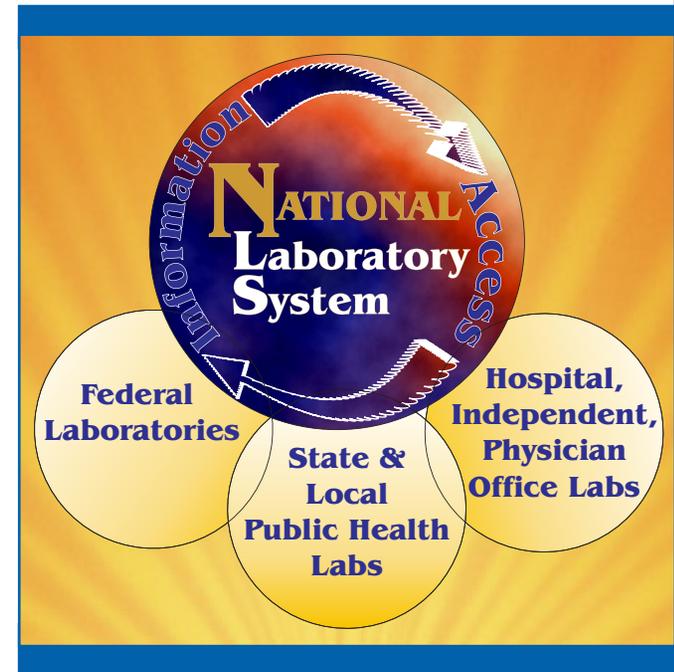
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“...We’ve got to increase our capability of dealing with infectious disease. The same things you need to prepare yourself for a viral terrorist incident, you need to do anyway to deal with the health of our people.”

Former Senator, Sam Nunn
The Atlanta Journal Constitution, September 26, 2001

“Working Together to Ensure Excellence in Laboratory Practices for a Healthy Tomorrow”

STATEWIDE AND COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

*Ensure Nation is prepared for:
Bioterrorism
Infectious Disease Outbreaks
Public Health Threats
And Emergencies

*Guidance for Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Funds for
Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism



The National Laboratory System was established to ensure a strong system of integrated public health, hospital, and independent laboratories. The goal is to strengthen critical testing and communication for public health issues through systematic improvements in the delivery of laboratory services. Facilitated collaboration among state public health laboratories and their clinical laboratory constituents fulfills the directive in recent government appropriations to integrate the work of clinical and public health laboratories to assure preparedness for bioterrorism through planning, training, coordination, communication, and standardization of methods.

The NLS is pro-active, allowing each state to prioritize its efforts towards bioterrorism and various public health threats such as foodborne diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and chronic health threats. It has flexibility of scope so that resources can be diverted to any public health crisis. Model projects have demonstrated that recent funding is best utilized to connect private and public health laboratories with a designated laboratory program advisor in each of the fifty states. Other components include a system for routine and emergency communication, advisory committees, ongoing laboratory training programs, and the National Laboratory Database, a comprehensive, state-centered inventory of laboratories, testing services and practices. The National Laboratory System is supported by the Division of Laboratory Systems within the Public Health Practice Program Office of the CDC.

National Laboratory System

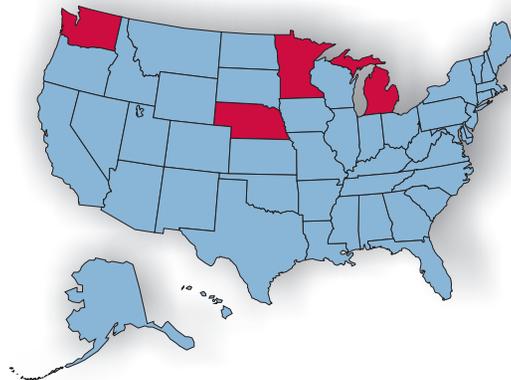
**Partnership of Public and Private Laboratories • Assessment and Monitoring of Capacity
Workforce Development • Promotion of Standards**

MISSION

To improve public health through creation of effective working relationships between clinical and public health Laboratories

VISION

Assurance of the availability of consistent laboratory capacity for public health across the Nation



The NLS focuses on testing services responsive to potential biological terrorism, foodborne outbreaks, emerging diseases, and environmental exposures.

MODEL SITE ACTIVITIES

MINNESOTA, NEBRASKA, MICHIGAN, WASHINGTON

- Laboratory Program Advisors
- Universal laboratory assessment
- Expanded communication system (e.g., blast e-mail and fax)
- Specimen transport system
- Education on unusual disease
- Ensuring effective testing and reporting practices (e.g., Antimicrobial susceptibility and *E. Coli* O157:H7)

Division of Laboratory Systems
<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/dls/default.asp>