

HIV Program

The HIV Program at APHL monitors key HIV diagnostic testing issues, such as supply shortages of diagnostic testing kits and the emergence of new testing technologies; identifies and prioritizes relevant laboratory diagnostic information for dissemination to public health laboratories and other partners; evaluates emerging issues; and develops recommendations and guidelines as needed.

APHL acts as a key liaison between CDC and state and local public health laboratories. Public health laboratories continue to play an important role in providing quality diagnostic testing for HIV.

As new technologies emerge, APHL works with CDC to evaluate new methods and develop updated testing recommendations to assure that laboratories provide timely and accurate diagnostic testing services in support of public health programs.

APHL also responds to a wide array of member needs. By interfacing with federal, commercial and public health partners, APHL disseminates information about new guidelines, regulations, testing technologies and manufacturing concerns to public health laboratories. APHL also plays an important role in planning and facilitating trainings and webinars on current practices in HIV testing.

In order to promote, discuss, define and explain the unique challenges faced by public health laboratories, APHL works to:

- Facilitate lines of communication between the CDC and public health laboratories.
- Provide direction and expertise in the area of HIV diagnostics.
- Address issues related to shortage of diagnostic testing kits and discontinuation of kits.
- Provide input and leadership to the development and implementation of new HIV algorithms.
- Identify key HIV diagnostic issues and develop plans to address them when needed.

Ultimately, these activities will support the improvement of HIV laboratory practice.

Other specific activities this year include:

- Develop manuscript and seek publication of data from the 2011 HIV Supplemental Testing Evaluation
- Continue to work with CDC to evaluate the proposed algorithm and develop HIV testing guidelines
- Work with public health laboratories and clinical laboratory partners to support the timely and appropriate adoption of new guidelines.

Links:

- <http://www.aphl.org/aphlprograms/infectious/hiv/pages/default.aspx>
APHL HIV webpage
- http://www.aphl.org/policy/Documents/HIV_rapid_testing.pdf
APHL HIV position statement on rapid testing
- www.hivtestingconference.org
2005, 2007 & 2010 HIV Diagnostics Conference

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