

# Influenza

The Influenza Program at APHL strives to expand the utilization of quality laboratory practices related to influenza testing, and to improve policies that affect laboratory practice, especially around surveillance activities. APHL also strives to gather information to inform state, local and national surveillance efforts. Staff members provide rapid communication and technical assistance to member laboratories as new developments arise.

The APHL Influenza program offers CDC and public health laboratories opportunities to optimize their current surveillance practices for influenza. APHL is able to rapidly move critical surveillance and response resources to members in a timely and efficient way.

Current funding helps public health laboratories to improve laboratory capacity for detecting influenza viruses by assuring demands for testing reagents are met and assisting CDC with influenza studies needed to meet FDA requirements.

Funding from CDC also allows APHL to address current policy surrounding influenza surveillance by collecting data to develop guidance on the “right size” of virologic surveillance needed to inform vaccine strain selection and novel influenza detection.

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

- Respond to current seasonal and pandemic Influenza by addressing member needs using a variety of communication methods.
- Assist CDC in support of regional capacity for Influenza laboratory surveillance, including virus characterization, and neuraminidase inhibition testing.
- Collaborate with CDC to deliver neuraminidase inhibition and pyrosequencing training for state and local public health laboratories.
- Facilitate CDC access to state-based subject matter experts in influenza for rapid assistance in creating guidance materials for

the Influenza season.

- Facilitate data gathering on current state and local surveillance systems through survey, modeling, and meetings and to use these data to help develop guidance documents for right size virologic surveillance.

### **Ultimately, these activities will support the improvement of Influenza laboratory practice.**

Other specific activities this year include:

- Revision of the International Laboratory Capacity Tool to enhance global surveillance.
- Increase laboratory capacity through mathematical modeling and other studies such as pooling.
- Enhance capability to detect other respiratory viruses through assay development with CDC and public health laboratories.

### **Links:**

- <http://www.aphl.org/aphlprograms/infectious/influenza/pages/default.aspx>

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