

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program

The Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program at APHL monitors key STD diagnostic testing issues; 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 facilitates bi-directional communication between CDC and state and local public health laboratories (PHLs). In this endeavor, APHL strives to promote quality diagnostic testing practices and control efforts for sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

APHL works with CDC to improve STD-related testing by dissemination of new guidelines; by providing input for and information about new , regulatory standards and requirements, and by communicating manufacturing concerns to PHLs. APHL also engages with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to promote the role of PHLs in STD testing.

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

- Serve as the principal point of contact between CDC/NCHHSTP and local and state public health laboratories.
- Develop plans to enhance laboratory services and assist control efforts for multiple drug resistant pathogens.
- Convene workgroups and assist in development or review of STD testing guidelines.
- Identify barriers to implementation of new STD diagnostic and resistance testing technology and protocols.

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

Other specific activities this year include:

- Monthly conference calls with the CDC/APHL STD Steering Committee including one in-person meeting to discuss a strategic plan for the upcoming year.
- APHL members and staff continue to assist with development and publication of the final CDC Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis Testing Guidelines.
- Work with CDC to develop training on gonorrhea culture and antimicrobial resistance testing.
- Assessment of public health laboratories STD capabilities, capacity and practice via analysis of STD Testing Practices Survey.
- Development of Trichomonas testing guidance.

Links:

- <http://www.aphl.org/aphlprograms/infectious/std/pages/default.aspx>
- http://www.aphl.org/AboutAPHL/publications/Documents/ID_2011May_STDIssueBrief.pdf

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