



Public Health Labs: A Critical Part of the Story

At the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), we respond to inquiries quickly, connecting you with subject matter experts specializing in infectious disease, environmental health, newborn screening, global health, all-hazards response and other disciplines. We also arrange background interviews for fast access to nuanced interpretation of complex health issues. If we don't have the information, we often can refer you to the right source.

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What's a public health laboratory?

Public health laboratories are the nation's laboratory first responders. Working at the federal, state and local levels, these governmental laboratories monitor and detect health threats ranging from the Zika virus to terrorist agents.

Some examples of public health laboratories in action:

- **Raising Baby Caroline: Life with PKU.** Caroline was born with PKU, a potentially devastating metabolic disorder. Thanks to newborn screening, a valuable public health service performed almost entirely by public health labs, Caroline is living a healthy normal life.
- **Three Critical Lessons Learned from Louisiana's Flu Data.** While the public gets their vaccines and loads up on hand sanitizer, public health labs prepare to test specimens and collect data that will provide a detailed look at how this serious virus is impacting the public's health.
- **APHL Belongs in South Sudan — It's About Saving Lives.** APHL works globally to build and strengthen national laboratory systems. In South Sudan, a young nation devastated by civil war, the Association is bringing a reliable source of power to the national reference laboratory through solar technology.
- **What is PulseNet?** PulseNet, a national laboratory network developed by CDC and APHL to quickly detect foodborne disease outbreaks, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.
- **September 30, 2014: As Ebola Arrived, the Texas Public Health Lab Was Ready.** As US health officials saw Ebola ravage populations in West Africa, the public health system began to prepare for the possibility of this disease hitting our soil. When it did, the Texas public health laboratory acted quickly and efficiently, just as expected.
- **Responding to the Animas River Disaster: Who's Testing What?** Using the Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats, public health laboratories across the nation quickly responded to this environmental emergency in Colorado.

Find these stories and more about APHL and public health labs at www.aphl.org/media

APHL experts have been quoted in:

