

APHL works with countries around the world to build strong and resilient national laboratory systems. We support and coordinate the US national public health laboratory system that serves all 50 states, as well as US territories.

With over 50 years of experience managing public health laboratory programs, we apply our expertise to serve national laboratory systems across the globe. APHL provides technical assistance, trainings and workshops, policy development, strategic planning and more across the capabilities outlined below.



Biosafety and Biosecurity

APHL supports countries in improving laboratory biosafety and biosecurity through risk assessments, trainings, mentorships and supporting programs, such as the Biological Safety Cabinets (BSCs) Certification Training Program which focuses on developing participant skills in the maintenance and certification of BSCs.



Energy

Access to clean, sustainable and affordable energy plays a crucial role in advancing health. Laboratory access to a reliable source of power is critical to healthcare service delivery and disease control and prevention. APHL supports the installation of various energy solutions—including solar energy systems—at laboratories, clinics and hospitals, and provides training for system maintenance.



Informatics and Data Modernization

APHL supports countries in evaluation, design and implementation of laboratory information systems (LIS) for more efficient management of laboratory processes and reporting of laboratory data from public health and clinical laboratories while also addressing the data integration, interoperability, visualization, warehousing and standardizing needs for enabling effective utilization of laboratory data by surveillance and clinical programs.



Laboratory Accreditation

APHL assists countries to build their laboratory workforce and move toward accreditation through capacity building in quality management systems (QMS), laboratory leadership, internal and external quality assessment and specific diagnostic techniques related to priority disease testing for the country. APHL uses “train the trainer” programs to build laboratory workforces that can apply QMS toward accreditation and enhance the quality of a country’s laboratories.

This publication was 100% supported by Cooperative Agreements # NU2HGH000080 (\$25,826,915), #NU2GGH002200 (\$1,700,520) and # NU2HGH000032 (\$2,295,495) funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC or the US Department of Health and Human Services.



Next Generation Sequencing

APHL works with countries to develop and optimize next generation sequencing (NGS) protocols and laboratory procedures in a pathogen-agnostic and pathogen-specific approach on Illumina, Oxford Nanopore Technologies and Ion Torrent sequencing platforms. APHL supports, trains and advises on laboratory capacity building for NGS, QMS, bioinformatics and genomic epidemiology to produce actionable genomic data for public health decision making.



Public Health Laboratory Network

A National Public Health Laboratory Network is essential for countries to implement surveillance for priority diseases and prepare, detect and respond to the next outbreak. This includes providing guidance on government policy, establishing a laboratory-tiered network, and developing national strategic and operational plans that allow for a systematic and stepwise approach to building a national public health laboratory network.



Twinning

The APHL Laboratory Twinning Initiative is an innovative, peer-to-peer approach to strengthening national public health laboratory systems in a sustainable, cost-effective and mutually beneficial manner. Twinning builds on APHL's membership base of US state public health laboratories and pairs them with international laboratories; it fosters long-term partnerships that build laboratory capacity and quality systems and provide ongoing learning and development opportunities.



Waste Management

APHL supports the improvement of waste management systems in the laboratory through technical assistance. APHL supports activities such as: incinerator repair and installation, liquid waste disposal including guanidinium thiocyanate (GTC), development of waste management strategies and on-site training for laboratory personnel on appropriate waste management disposal methods.



Wastewater Surveillance

APHL supports laboratory capacity building for collecting and testing wastewater samples for molecular and genomic surveillance using an NGS approach. This surveillance program is principally designed to test for SARS-CoV-2, but the number of pathogens being surveyed can be expanded based on a country's need for pandemic preparedness.



Workforce Development

APHL develops and implements custom workshops and curricula focused on eliminating immediate technical gaps while also comprehensively addressing a broad range of management and leadership skills to enhance workforce capacity and support laboratory system building.

Learn more by visiting [APHL.org/GH-Capabilities](https://www.aphl.org/GH-Capabilities)