2018 APHL™ Annual Meeting

and twelfth government environmental laboratory conference

June 2-5, 2018
Pasadena, CA
Pasadena Convention Center

#aphl
APHL Public Health and Environmental Lab Assessment
Team for Puerto Rico Post Hurricane Maria

Emergency Preparedness with Environmental Health Focus

Continuity of Operations

Site Visit October 24-27 2017
Overview

• Mission
• Team/Partners
• Emergency Response Preparation
• Evaluating Essential Laboratory Testing Services
• Impacts on Laboratory Testing Service
• Challenges and Lessons Learns
Mission: Engaging Partners and Information Sharing

- 5 days onsite using APHL assessment tool to evaluate four facilities (one central and three regional) to determine physical fitness (power, electricity, equipment etc) and technical capacity & capability.
- Write report using APHL assessment template for findings and recommendations (e.g. CLIA, Drinking Water compliance, COOP etc) for each of the facilities visited (4 total).
APHL On Site Team

- **Systems Assessment**: Dr. Andrew Cannons, Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratory – Tampa, Laboratory Director
- **Environmental Health Assessment**: Dr. Martina McGarvey, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Laboratories, Laboratory Director
- **Infectious Diseases Assessment**: Dr. Christine Bean, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Laboratory Director
- **Operations Assessment and Support**: Mr. Tyler Wolford, Senior Specialist, Laboratory Response Network, APHL Staff
Additional Partners

- CDC requested APHL to assess Main PHL and 3 regional PHLs
- PR DOH Liaison to EOC
- Laboratory Personnel
- US EPA Assessment Follow Up
- US Army Corp of Engineers
Emergency Response Preparation

- Preparations – teleconferences
- Medications
- 30% DEET
- Water and Protein Bars
- Clothing
- Flashlights
- Candles
Evaluating Essential Laboratory Testing Services

• Write report using APHL assessment template for findings and recommendations (e.g. CLIA, Drinking Water compliance, COOP etc) for each of the facilities visited (4 total).
Comprehensive Assessment Tool

- Organizational Structure/Contacts
- Funding Sources
- Quality System Regulations
- Physical Fitness of Lab Facilities (space, equipment, reagents, safety)
- Collection and transport of samples
- Testing Services
- Partnerships and Communication
- Integrated Data Management
- Training and Development Needs
Regional Laboratory Visits

2 of 3 regional labs were visited due to time constraints. Travel was difficult due to stop lights not functioning. Both laboratories perform environmental testing for drinking water and milk testing

- Arecibo Hygiene Laboratory
- Mayaguez Hygiene Laboratory
October 25, 2017

Arecibo Hygiene Laboratory

US EPA and Army Corp of Engineers had completed air quality assessment. FEMA Delivered and installed a generator to power the laboratory.

Minimal infrastructure damage

The Arecibo Lab was the only public service laboratory capable of testing drinking water. The recommendation that all samples be sent by courier to the lab for testing. There was a need to communicate with the Drinking Water Officers.
“We are the lucky ones.”
Martina Q. McGarvey, DM
Director
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