Collaboration of Public Health TB Laboratories: Prioritizing Testing Amid Natural Disasters and a Pandemic

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Disasters Experienced

Stuck MGIT 960 drawer

Hurricanes & Flooding

Winter Storm
MGIT Drawer Malfunction
Lessons Learned

• Set Calendar Reminders for Maintenance

• Train staff to open/close drawers gently and to notice and report any resistance

• Utilize second instrument for repeat testing

• Drastically delayed testing

• Notify submitters of delayed results
Major Flooding Events

Hurricane Harvey 2017

MEMORIAL DAY 2015

TAX DAY 2016

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018
Distance lab staff travel to work
How do we Prepare?

- Cover all equipment with heavy duty plastic
- Ensure backup power connections
- Elevate as much as possible
- Contact submitters
How do we Prepare?

- Set all ASTs
- Reseed ASTs
- Postpone send outs
- Track deliveries
Impact of Disasters

Delayed Testing

Delayed Treatment
Lessons Learned

• Minimize testing delays
• Check on upcoming deliveries
• Constant communication
Thank You!