Agents of Bioterrorism: Sentinel Training for Clinical Laboratories

April 30, 2020 ● May 5, 2020 ● May 7, 2020

Georgia Public Health Laboratory, Decatur, GA

Co-sponsored by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Public Health Laboratory and the Association of Public Health Laboratories

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration and Pre-Test
9:00 Welcome and Introductions
9:15 Georgia Laboratory System and the Laboratory Response Network (LRN)
9:30 Laboratory Security and Chain-of-Custody
10:00 Break (provided)
10:15 Agents of Bioterrorism - Lecture
  • Bacillus anthracis (Anthrax)
  • Brucella species (Brucellosis)
  • Francisella tularensis (Tularemia)
  • Yersinia pestis (Plague)
  • Variola major (Smallpox)
  • Burkholderia mallei and pseudomallei (Glanders and Melioidosis)
  • Ricinus communis and Clostridium botulinum (toxins)
12:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
12:30 Laboratory Safety and Biosafety Cabinet Use
1:00 Laboratory Exercise, Part 1
2:30 Break (provided)
2:45 Laboratory Exercise, Part 2
4:15 Question & Answer
4:30 Post-Test and Evaluation Instructions
5:00 Adjourn

DESCRIPTION
This one-day, intermediate-level, hands-on workshop will provide an overview of the sentinel clinical laboratory’s role in the presumptive identification of the primary agents of bioterrorism. Laboratory exercises will demonstrate the culture, staining and biochemical characteristics of Bacillus, Burkholderia, Yersinia, Brucella, and Francisella species. The safety implications of handling suspect organisms in clinical isolates and culture and suspect toxins will be emphasized. Policies related to chain-of-custody specimens will be reviewed.

AUDIENCE
This program is designed for the microbiologist with bench-level clinical microbiology experience, with preference given to applicants that have not attended the course in the past. Only persons with experience working in the laboratory setting will be permitted to attend.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of this program, the participants will be able to:
• Discuss the role of the clinical laboratorian in the presumptive identification of organisms and toxins targeted for use in bioterrorism.
• Explain the safety implications of handling suspect samples in clinical specimens and isolates.
• Identify culture, staining, and biochemical characteristics of the primary agents likely to be involved in a bioterrorist event including, Bacillus anthracis, Brucella spp., Burkholderia spp., Francisella tularensis, and Yersinia pestis.
• Describe the development and implementation of lab-specific biosafety and biosecurity plans in hospital facilities utilizing federal recommendations and guidelines.
• Outline the process for contacting appropriate personnel and transporting samples suspected of containing Variola major (smallpox), or ricin or botulinum toxins to the Georgia Public Health Laboratory.

FACULTY
Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Public Health Laboratory
• Mathews Athiyal, MS, MB(ASCP), Biosafety Officer, Training Coordinator
• Suresh Pai, Ph.D., M(ASCP), Emergency Preparedness Unit Director

For a complete list of courses, visit www.LaboratoryTraining.org
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CREATE AN ACCOUNT WITH APHL

- If this is your first time to register for an APHL event you must first create a user account in order to register for an event.
- If more than one person from a facility wishes to register, each person must complete a separate registration.
- You can create an account with APHL at https://www.aphl.org/Pages/createaccount.aspx.
- If you have difficulty creating an account please contact Marisa Barley (marisa.barley@aphl.org), or phone +1 240.485.3843.

REGISTRATION

- Registration deadline: 1 week prior to each event.
- Register online for FREE! www.aphl.org/103-20
- Pre-registration is required through APHL and NO walk-ins will be permitted.
- This workshop is open for registration to Georgia residents working in Georgia clinical or hospital laboratories only. The Georgia Public Health Laboratory reserves the right to limit registration.
- Enrollment is strictly limited to 16 participants per workshop and only persons with experience working in the laboratory setting will be permitted to attend.
- Upon receipt of your registration, a confirmation letter with detailed workshop information, lodging and driving directions will be sent by email.
- If you have difficulty with the online registration process or do not receive a confirmation email, please email Marisa Barley by email or phone 240.485.3843.

QUESTIONS?

- Registration — email Marisa Barley, APHL Customer Support at marisa.barley@aphl.org.
- Logistical and Travel — email Angela Sharpe, GPHL Program Associate at Angela.Sharpe@dph.ga.gov, or phone +1 404.327.7940.
- Course Content — email Mathews Athiyal at mathews.athiyal@dph.ga.gov.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. Participants who successfully complete this program will be awarded 7.5 contact hours. Event #s: 588-103-20, 588-104-20, 588-105-20

SPECIAL NEEDS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals seeking special accommodations should submit their request in writing to Marisa Barley, APHL Customer Support at Marisa.barley@aphl.org, at least 3 weeks prior to start date of the workshop.

COMPETENCIES ACHIEVED

Completion of this course supports development of staff competencies as described in the CDC publication, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Supplement / Vol. 64 / No. 1 May 15, 2015, Competency Guidelines for Public Health Laboratory Professionals (Domain MCB 4.11, Rule out testing for agents of concern).

CANCELLATIONS

If you would like to make a substitution to your registration or need to cancel, please notify Marisa Barley ASAP so that your seat can be offered to the next person on the Wait-List.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Travel Reimbursement by the GA PHL may be available. Details are provided in the registration confirmation letter.

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