Is Your City or State Colored on the L-SIP Map?

The colored city and states in the map represent the 28 states and one local public health laboratory system that have convened an L-SIP assessment, as well as one state that completed an L-SIP reassessment. If your laboratory has not completed an assessment, and you are interested in learning more about L-SIP and how to get your laboratory system partners connected through convening an L-SIP assessment, join your colleagues for the Spring 2013 technical assistance calls. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to join New Hampshire and conduct a reassessment to document the impact of previous changes and to assess where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

Schedule of Spring 2013 L-SIP Technical Assistance Calls

APHL sponsors technical assistance to prepare for conducting an L-SIP assessment via conference calls. These calls offer APHL members planning an L-SIP assessment a chance to learn more about the assessment and the logistics of planning for one. They are also an opportunity for the assessment coordinators, facilitators and theme takers to ask any questions they have about their roles.

For More Information

Please visit the L-SIP site on APHL.org.

Contact

Tina Su, MPH
Senior Specialist,
Technical assistance calls for Spring 2013 will be held on the following dates/times:

**Thursday, February 21, 11:00 am ET**
Topics covered: overview of L-SIP, resources available to members, process for preparing for an assessment

**Tuesday, March 5, 11:00 am ET**
Topics covered: identification of stakeholders to invite to an L-SIP assessment, details about facilitators and theme takers, materials to include in the participant packet

**Thursday, March 21, 11:00 am ET**
Topics covered: assessment evaluation, examples of post-assessment quality improvement activities

All member laboratories are encouraged to participate, even if you just want to learn more about what is involved in planning an assessment, but especially if an L-SIP assessment is planned in the next 12 months. To receive call-in information, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org to add your email address to the distribution list.

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**New Free Online Courses in Quality Assurance**

APHL’s National Center for Public Health Laboratory Leadership (NCPHLL) invites you to take advantage of the following online courses at no charge:

**Organize Your Lab with Lean 6S Principles:** Learn the six simple steps that can lead them to a more efficient work environment. This online course explains the use of Lean 6S principles in organizing the physical workplace for efficiency.

**Ethics and Data Integrity for Technical Staff:** This online course discusses ethics and personal integrity and illustrates how these traits apply to technical staff in a public health or other laboratory.

**Basic Ethics and Data Integrity for Non-Technical Staff:** This course introduces the concepts of ethics and integrity. It defines the difference between the two and illustrates how these traits apply to non-technical staff in a public health laboratory.

**Introduction to Analytical Measurement Uncertainty:** This course introduces the topic of measurement uncertainty and defines the basic terms of measurement. The reason that all measurements contain some level of doubt is explained and illustrated.

Each course provides at least 1.0 P.A.C.E.® credit. For questions on course content or feedback, contact Cathy Johnson at catherine.johnson@aphl.org. Browse all of APHL’s online courses [here](#).
Quality Assurance Listserv
Representatives from all United States member laboratories are invited to sign up to participate on the Quality Assurance Listserv. This member benefit acts as a forum for your quality related questions to your peers and the sharing of possible solutions and lessons learned. Recent topics include environmental proficiency testing ordering and expiration of laboratory disposables. To join in on the conversation and view an archive of previous listserv postings, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

What’s New in APHL’s Member Resource Center?
Bonny Van (Director, Public Health Laboratory, Marion County Public Health Department) gave a presentation entitled “Adopting a Continuous Quality Improvement Mindset: Laboratory Documents” on the November Laboratory System Improvement Group call. The presentation has been uploaded to the APHL Member Resource Center (MRC).

The MRC is only as strong as the quality of the submitted resources, so please continue to submit resources to the MRC. For more information or assistance accessing the MRC, please email Deborah Kim, Survey and Research Manager, at deborah.kim@aphl.org.

Category

New Quality Improvement Website Launches
By Author
Public health professionals who wish to share information about quality improvement initiatives can add a new online resource to their toolkits. The Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange is a free, publicly available communication platform dedicated to enhancing the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of public health systems by making public health quality improvement information easily accessible to public health practitioners. To encourage interaction and collaboration between public health professionals, the website — designed by representatives from Tribal, state and local health departments — includes a community forum for dialogue among the site's users. For example, users can submit comments and questions about quality improvement initiatives, or take advantage of an "Ask an Expert" feature in which quality improvement experts weigh in on their questions. For more information about the Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange, visit www.phqix.org.
Quality Improvement Related Articles

October 2012 issue of Quality Management Journal

- Costs and Savings of Six Sigma Programs: An Empirical Study

November 2012 issue of Medical Laboratory Observer

- Risk assessment and quality control: Be ready for the new guidance
- "Empty QC": when QC is out of control

November 2012 issue of BMJ Quality & Safety

- Developing capable quality improvement leaders

November/December 2012 issue of Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

- Developing a Taxonomy for the Science of Improvement in Public Health
- Health Districts as Quality Improvement Collaboratives and Multijurisdictional Entities

Upcoming Meetings

- The National Network of Public Health Institutes will be holding its 11th Annual Public Health Agency, Systems, and Community Health Improvement Training on April 23–24, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. Key topics included in the training are community health assessment and improvement planning, performance management, quality improvement, strategic planning, preparing for accreditation and more. Public health institute members have been instrumental in serving as presenters for skills training. Public health institute members have also participated in the training to build capacity within their institutes and to network with health departments, universities and national organizations to foster relationships and develop more partnerships. Training registration will launch in February 2013.

- The 12th National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference will be held May 20–22 in New Orleans, LA. Registration will launch in February 2013.

- The American Society for Quality (ASQ) Raleigh's 2013 Quality in the Triangle Conference will be held on May 20–22, 2013. The Conference Theme is "Innovation and Creativity — Application by the Quality Professional." For more information, visit www.asgraleigh.org (Conference tab).

- The 2013 APHL Annual Meeting and Seventh Government
Environmental Laboratory Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina from June 2–5, 2013. This year’s meeting will discuss issues ranging from environmental issues to emerging infectious diseases and emergency preparedness, from informatics to food safety, newborn screening and global health. Please visit the meeting website for more information.