

**PHLs are vital part of Laboratory Response Network.**

- LRN tests biological, chemical threats to protect US health & safety
- PHLs test for select agents of greatest concern
- All PHLs are in good standing with the LRN

**PHL facilities are highly secure.**

- Multiple levels of security to access PHL facilities
- BSL-3 suites required to work with select agents: negative airflow, biosafety cabinets, multiple levels of security for access (e.g., dedicated space for select agents, freezer locked, must have swipe card access)
- PHL staff work in pairs, check one another

PHLs work safely  
with select agents to protect  
the public's health.

**PHLs adhere to strict quality management standards.**

- Inspected every 2 years by CMS or CAP as required under CLIA
- Inspected routinely every 3 years plus unannounced inspections by Select Agent Program to verify compliance (e.g. check inventories of organisms & biosafety/biosecurity procedures)
- Highly skilled leadership that provides oversight of laboratory personnel (e.g. in complying with high quality assurance, biosafety/biosecurity practices & PHL community policies)

**PHL staff are carefully trained and proficient.**

- Training in proper handling of each select agent & each test method for that organism
- Required hands-on training in biosafety procedures followed by close supervision, periodic refresher courses
- Required facility-specific biosecurity training emphasizing situational awareness & correct access procedures
- Participate in proficiency testing 2x/year