



Hands-on workshop, training staff from other labs in Iowa on protocols to rule out potential agents of bioterrorism, State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding has allowed the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa to establish relationships with sentinel (clinical) laboratories, law enforcement agencies, HazMat teams and Civil Support Teams. These partnerships are vital to the safety of the citizens of Iowa with regards to terrorism response and public health emergencies.**

### **Funding Highlights**

In addition to helping to establish key relationships, preparedness funding also allows the State Hygienic Laboratory to support personnel and training, equipment and instrumentation, a statewide courier service, reagents and supplies for specimen testing, electronic results reporting, exercises and proficiency testing and bio-security. The relationships the laboratory has built with this funding have served the state in several public health emergencies.

### **Biological Preparedness**

The State Hygienic Laboratory currently sponsors 5.8 FTEs, all public health microbiologists, who are appropriately trained to perform diverse testing methods with 24/7/365 response. The biological preparedness staff participate in a variety of training exercises, drills and proficiency tests. These staff members offered several training courses for sentinel laboratories during FY 2011. The bioterrorism “rule-out” series was launched, consisting of five modules that provide on-line training of

“rule-out” tests for potential agents of bioterrorism. The laboratory also sponsored two wet workshops for 18 clinical laboratorians, in which participants were trained to recognize select agents. In addition, six fall forums were presented with a total of 65 participants, representing all

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six regions in the state of Iowa. The public health microbiologists participated in a total of five proficiency tests during FY 2011. Preparedness funding has also supported the maintenance of equipment for bioterrorism response and pandemic influenza.

### Chemical Preparedness

PHEP funding has allowed the State Hygienic Laboratory to support 2.5 FTEs for emergency response chemists. The chemists in the preparedness program have participated in 18 proficiency tests during 2011.

The relationships the laboratory has built with this funding have served the state in several public health emergencies.

Proficiency testing allows the emergency response chemists to utilize their skills as they would in an actual event. In addition, the chemical terrorism staff participated in three packaging and shipping exercises, and the laboratory has purchased and maintained chemical threat instrumentation. The emergency response chemists also prepare proficiency tests and provide training for HazMat teams throughout the state of Iowa.

### Contact

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