

State Health Laboratory Press Release Template
Example from Rhode Island State Health Laboratory
(not a real press release – for demonstration purposes only)

The Rhode Island State Health Laboratory Receives Major Grant From the FDA to Support Food Safety Surveillance.

July 27, 2009

The United States Food and Drug Administration has awarded a grant to the Rhode Island State Health Laboratory to support the testing of food for the presence of foodborne pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *E. coli*, as part of a multi-site program. Funded under the Microbiology Cooperative Agreement Program (MCAP), the three year award provides funding for two laboratory scientists to conduct surveillance of the national food supply. The Rhode Island State Health Laboratory is one of 15 laboratories to receive funding under this competitive program. In addition to personnel support, the award also provides state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment for rapid identification of common foodborne disease-causing microorganisms. Foodborne illness sickens roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people), 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die each year of foodborne diseases, according to estimates published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The mission of the Rhode Island State Health Laboratory, located in Providence, is to identify and mitigate hazards which pose a threat to the health and well being of the people of Rhode Island. This goal is achieved by the provision of quality analytical and technical laboratory services in support of state and national disease prevention and control, environmental health programs, and the criminal justice system. The State Health Laboratory performs chemical, physical and microbiological analyses of environmental samples, clinical specimens and forensic evidence. The results of these scientific examinations are used to monitor the spread of infectious diseases caused by pathogenic bacteria, viruses or parasites, to assure the safety of drinking water and food supply, and to aid law enforcement in crime investigations and adjudication.

The Rhode Island State Health Laboratory is a division of the Department of Health. The laboratory supports the wider goal of promoting public health through collaboration with a variety of local, state and federal partners including the Department of Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Office of Food Protection, the Department of Environmental Management, and municipal and state law enforcement agencies. In addition, the State Health Laboratory works closely with federal partners such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the EPA, the FDA and FBI. Together with our partners, the Rhode Island State Health Laboratory is working to ensure the health and safety of all Rhode Islanders.