

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 Implements Next Generation HIV Testing.

December 15, 2011

The Rhode Island State Health Laboratory announced today that it has completed implementation of a new state of the art test for the AIDS virus. The new test, manufactured by Abbott Diagnostics, is a fourth generation test which detects antibodies to both forms of the HIV virus, HIV1 and HIV2, as well as detecting a protein on the surface of the virus itself. The ability to identify the virus directly is the hallmark of this latest version of the Abbott test. The ability to identify the virus allows for earlier detection of HIV infection which translates to earlier treatment. In addition, earlier identification of infected individuals provides an opportunity to prevent transmission of HIV to additional people.

“We are very excited about being able to offer a more sensitive and more comprehensive test to physicians working to manage AIDS patients” said Dr. Robert Ireland, chief clinical laboratory scientist for the State Health Laboratory. “It is an exciting new public health tool which will allow physicians to identify infected patients earlier in the infection cycle, providing more rapid access to treatment and providing public health officials with another means to slow the transmission of AIDS.”

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.