

**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 Monitors the Health of the State's Rivers.**

**July 27, 2011**

The Rhode Island State Health Laboratory is partnering with the Department of Environmental Management to assist in monitoring the health of Rhode Island's rivers. The Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory is providing testing services to the DEM in support of the Water Resources Ambient River Monitoring Projects. Heavy metals and other water contaminants are measured in rivers that drain into the Narragansett Bay. These analytical services support a mandated ecosystem-based management system which requires constant monitoring of water conditions so action can be taken in response to changes — much like using regular physical examinations and tests to monitor peoples' health. The goal of this ongoing joint project is to ensure the health of Rhode Island's rivers and Narragansett Bay, for the recreational and commercial enjoyment of all Rhode Islanders.

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.