



The State Hygienic Laboratory's Role in Emergency Response and After-Hours Use

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Webinar Objectives

- At the conclusion of the webinar, participants will be able to:
 - Understand the State Hygienic Laboratory's role in public health emergency preparedness and response to the State of Iowa
 - Determine when to call the State Hygienic Laboratory after normal business hours and what number to call
 - Learn from the various case studies presented and how to use the after-hours call algorithm



Eleven Core Functions and Capabilities of State Public Health Laboratories

- Disease prevention, control, and surveillance
- Integrated data management
- Reference and specialized testing
- Environmental health and protection
- Food safety
- Laboratory improvement and regulation
- Policy development
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Public health-related research
- Training and education
- Partnerships and communication



Basic Information about the State Hygienic Laboratory



Mission and Vision

- Mission: The State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa protects and improves the quality of life by providing reliable environmental and public health information through the collective knowledge and capabilities of our organization.
- Vision: Our vision is for Iowa to be a national leader in improving and sustaining quality of life through innovation, practice, and policy.



Locations and Addresses

Coralville Facility:

University of Iowa
Research Park
2490 Crosspark Road
Coralville, IA 52241

Ankeny Facility:

2220 S. Ankeny Blvd.
Ankeny, IA 50023

Lakeside Laboratory:

1838 Highway 86
Milford, IA 51351

Information can also be found at our web site:

www.shl.uiowa.edu



Coralville and Ankeny Laboratories



Coralville Facility

Staff of ~225:

- Infectious Diseases
- Environmental Services
- Newborn Screening
- IT, Administration and Support



Ankeny Facility

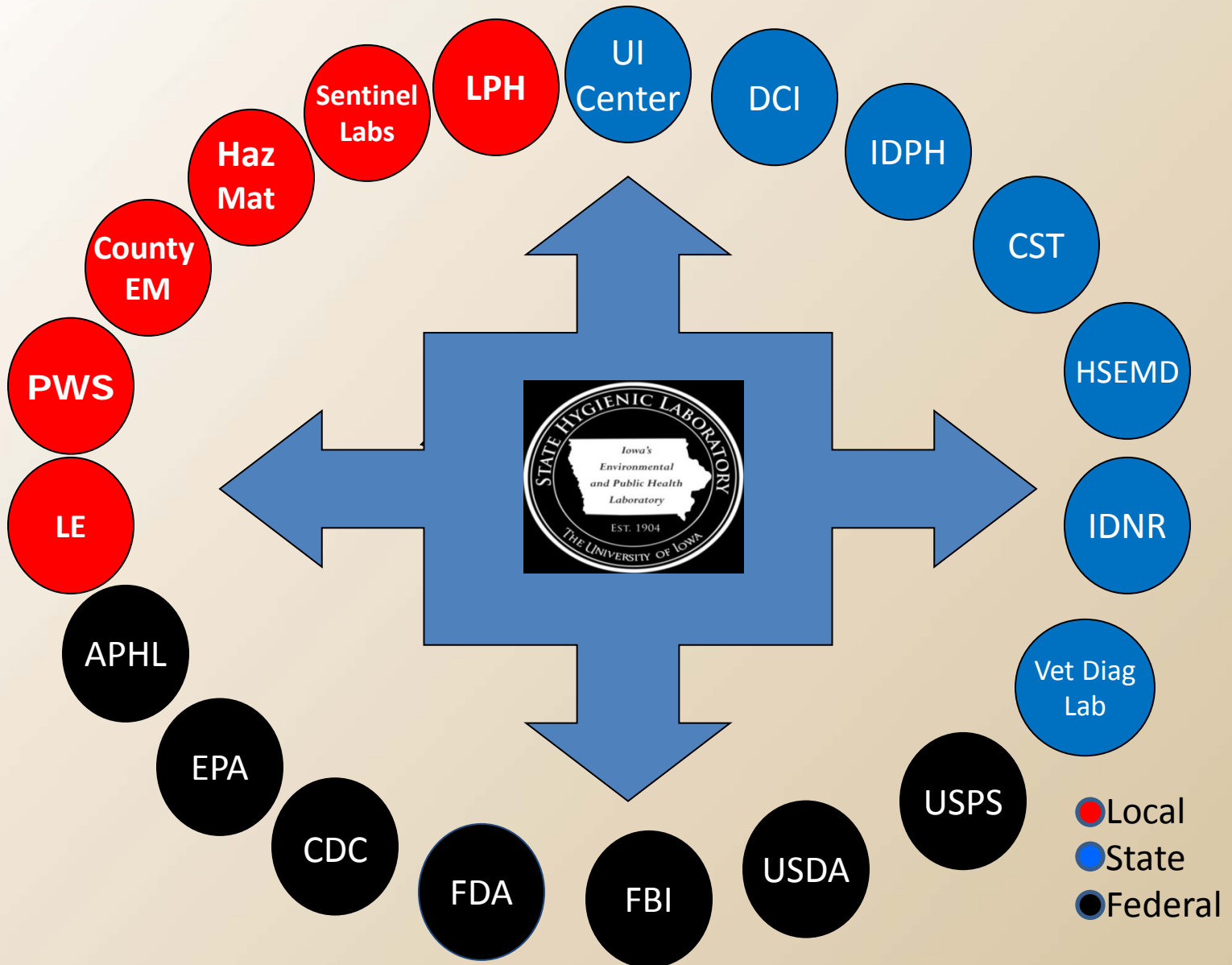


Normal Operating Hours

- **Coralville Facility**
 - Monday – Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Saturday: 9:00 am to Noon
- **Ankeny Facility**
 - Monday – Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Weekends: By Appointment Only
- **Lakeside Laboratory**
 - Monday – Friday: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
 - Weekends: By Appointment Only



SHL Partnerships





Biological Laboratory Response Network

FEDERAL LABS: Focus on national/global health

Information on national level

Develop new tests, offer rarely performed tests



PUBLIC HEALTH LABS: Focus on community

Provide information to public health officials

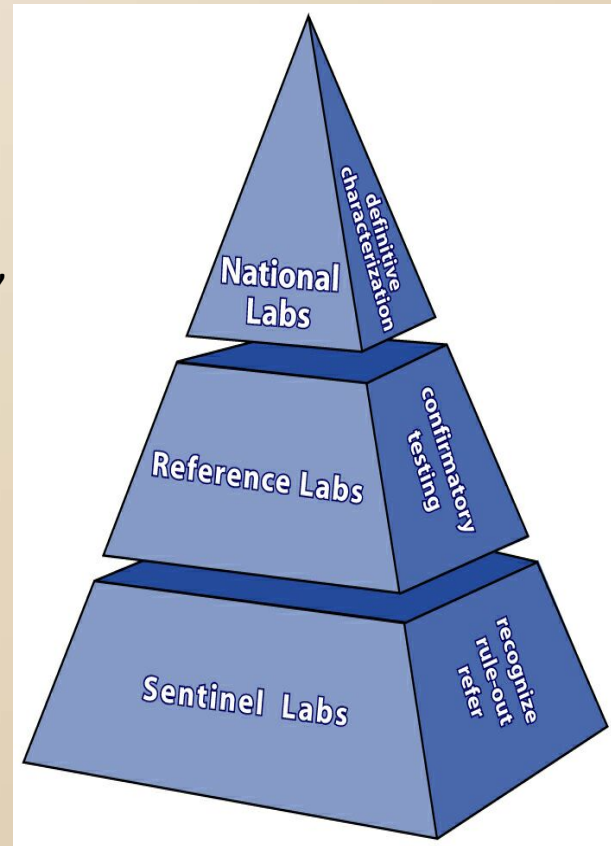
Some diagnostic testing, screening, strain typing, emerging diseases

Environmental testing

CLINICAL LABS: Focus on the patient

Provide information to physicians

Specialize in diagnostic testing, offer tests to meet needs of facility





What is a Public Health Emergency?

- A public health emergency is any event that threatens the health of the public and/or overwhelms current resources and capabilities.
- Examples of public health emergencies include potential acts of biological or chemical terrorism, pandemic influenza, disease outbreaks, and environmental or natural disasters



Duty Officer Information

- The duty officer answers calls and receives samples/specimens outside of normal SHL operating hours
- Hours of responsibilities
 - Weekdays: 5:00 pm to 8:00 am
 - Weekends and Holidays



Process for Calling After-Hours

- Call the regular number at 319-335-4500 or toll free at 800-421-IOWA (4692)
- In case of an emergency, you will be instructed to hang up and call the Department of Public Safety at 319-335-5022
- The Department of Public Safety will contact the SHL duty officer
- Your call will be returned by the SHL duty officer



When to Call After-Hours

Is this an urgent matter involving public health?

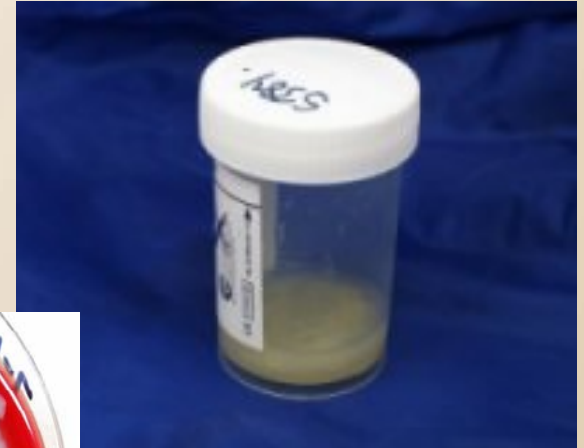


Reasons to Call the State Hygienic Laboratory After-Hours

- Suspicious packages/white powder incidents (HazMat teams and/or the Postal Inspector)
- Confirmation of clinical isolates involving suspected select agents (Sentinel laboratories)
- Potential cases of rabies or botulism (Veterinarians, Public Health)
- Disease outbreaks (Local Public Health/Epidemiologists)
- Natural/environmental disasters (Local Public Health/Department of Natural Resources)



Patient Isolates-Confirmation





What Information is Needed?

- Your name and organization
- A phone number where you can be reached
- Your job title
- The town/city where your organization is located
- Details of the issue/problem (the more specific, the better!)



Urgent Courier Service

- An on-demand courier service is available for sentinel laboratories and local public health agencies
- Examples of samples/specimens
 - Suspect organisms for confirmatory testing
 - Outbreak samples
 - Animals for rabies analysis (human exposure)
- The contracted courier is Central Delivery Service (CDS)
- Availability is 24/7/365
- Only SHL or Iowa Department of Public Health can request the courier on an emergency basis



Urgent Courier Service (continued)

- The duty officer will contact the courier
- The duty officer will contact the specimen submitter to inform them that the courier service has been contacted and to provide an estimated time of arrival
- The duty officer will request a name and phone number from the specimen submitter
- The duty officer will verify that a test request form will accompany the sample
- The courier will contact the duty officer once the specimen has been picked up



Examples of Emergency Response Efforts



Iowa City Landfill Fire

Laboratory responds to largest fire in county history

The largest fire in Johnson County history began on Saturday, May 26, and burned so hot it turned melted tire shreds into pyrolytic oil and created a plume of smoke that spanned the horizon for nearly 15 days.

While the 7.5 acres of the Iowa City Landfill burned, the State Hygienic Laboratory - on behalf of Johnson County Public Health - tested air samples collected near the fire and from multiple locations in the county for the presence of environmental contaminants. The Laboratory also tested samples from a collection pool that held more than 100,000 gallons of volatile pyrolytic oil created when the tires that lined the landfill cell burned.

"Air samples were collected by Hygienic Laboratory staff that Sunday and on Memorial Day to assess the quality of the air in terms of chemical contaminants in the smoke plume," said Michael Wichman, Ph.D., associate director of Environmental Health Programs. "Air testing continued well into the next week in Coralville, and additional, urgent testing of pyrolytic oil byproduct was provided by our Ankeny staff."



A landfill staffer bulldozes the grounds of the landfill to fight the fires on the night of Saturday, May 26. (Photo by Rick Fosse, courtesy of the City of Iowa City)

<http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/publications/lablink/201206/fire.xml>



The Iowa City Landfill Fire

- The Iowa City Fire Department responded to a call regarding a fire at the Iowa City landfill at 6:38 pm on Saturday, May 26, 2012
- The State Hygienic Laboratory duty officer was contacted at 11:07 am the next day for air monitoring
- This was a coordinated effort between several different agencies



Other Recent Events and Incidents

- Harding Middle School Incident (February 2012)
- White Powder Event at the State Capitol Complex (April 2012)
- Letter at the University of Iowa (July 2012)
- White Powder Incident at the Federal Building (February 2013)



Source: <http://thegazette.com/2012/07/16/state-hygenics-lab-to-check-unknown-substance-found-in-stanley-hall/>



Summary

- The State Hygienic Laboratory provides support for sentinel laboratories and local public health agencies with regards emergencies involving laboratory testing by providing:
 - A duty officer for 24/7/365 availability
 - Urgent courier service
- When in doubt, please call!



We encourage you to ask any questions at this time. Your time and attention is much appreciated, and we take your questions and concerns seriously.
Thank You!

