



APHL and Cross-Border Initiatives

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Overview

- Background on APHL
- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program
- Current Cross-Border Initiatives
 - Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN)
- Cross-Border Groups
 - Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI)
 - Pacific Northwest Alliance
 - Eastern Border Health Initiative
 - U.S. – Mexico Border Region Group
- Open Discussion
 - What are the critical needs from the laboratory perspective?
 - How can APHL help address these needs?



APHL: Broad Picture

Vision

A healthier world through quality laboratory practice.

Mission

To promote the role of public health laboratories in shaping national and global health objectives, and to promote policies, programs, and technologies which assure continuous improvement in the quality of laboratory practice and health outcomes.



Association History

- 1899: APHA formed the Committee of Laboratories
- 1921: Southern Public Health Laboratory Association formed
- 1927: became State Laboratory Directors Conference and opened membership to other states
- 1939: changed its name to Conference of State and Provincial Laboratory Directors
- 1951: Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors (ASTPHLD) founded



ASTPHLD to APHL

1998

A more inclusive organization with new membership categories

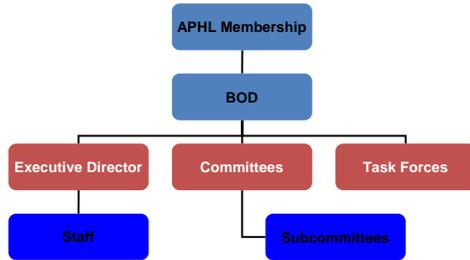


What is APHL?

- A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Almost 800 members representing:
 - State and local public health labs
 - State environmental and agricultural labs
 - Federal agencies
 - Academic institutions.
- Advocates at the national level for critical laboratory issues and for increased support/resources for member labs.
- Provides training and best practices for public health laboratory policy and programs.



APHL Organizational Structure



APHL Key Activities

Information broker

- CDC ↔ PHL's
- CDC ↔ CDC
- PHL's ↔ PHL's
- EPI ↔ LAB

Technology transfer

- CDC ↔ PHL's ↔ Other Federal Agencies
- Training

Policy

Best Practices



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program—Goals

- I. Improve the capability and capacity of member laboratories in their response to biological, chemical, radiological threats, and other public health emergencies
- II. Promote information and technology transfer from the CDC and other agencies to members to support preparedness functions
- III. Expand and enhance relationships among member laboratories, CDC, FBI, and other agencies
- IV. Provide support for the Laboratory Response Network (LRN)
- V. Improve legislation and promote policies that support laboratory preparedness



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program—Achieving our Goals

- EPR Committee
 - LRN Operational Workgroup
 - Laboratory Preparedness Exercise Workgroup
 - Performance Measures
 - First Responder Outreach
 - Continuity of Operations Planning
- Participation in Stakeholder Meetings, Congressional Briefings



Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee—Special Projects for the LRN-B

- LIMS Initiative with 4 PHLs
 - Move LRN data to CDC using LIMS and not LRN Results Messenger
- Limit of Detection (LoD) studies
- Sensitivity and specificity studies
- Conventional Methods Trainings
- Continuity of Operations Planning
- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Training
- Planning 2010 National Meeting



Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee—Current Activities

- Finalizing:
 - Civil Support Team (CST) “White Paper”
 - Relationship between CSTs and LRN reference laboratories
 - Position statement
 - Relationship between LRN sentinel clinical and reference laboratories
 - Position statement
 - Sustained funding for preparedness



Cross-Border Initiatives



Cross-Border Initiatives

- Early Warning Infectious Diseases Surveillance (EWIDS) Project
- APHL Partnership with the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN)
- Bi-national Laboratory Summit on Influenza
- North American Laboratory Summit on Influenza
- May 6-7, 2010: Canada-US Public Health Border Strategy Summit



Early Warning Infectious Diseases Surveillance (EWIDS) Project

- In 2003, HHS approved funding for states on northern and southern border
 - Initially \$4 million, increased to \$5 million in 2004
 - Funding dependent upon amount of border crossings and ranges from \$15,000 to over \$2 million
- Funded via the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement
- 18 of 20 eligible states participate (IL and OH do not)
 - In FY10, received \$3,752,000



Creating a Cohesive Public Health Network



CPHLN Broad Picture:

Vision

Be an action-oriented national public health laboratory network that provides valuable advice and services which form the foundation for the broader public health system.

Mission

To provide leadership and consultation in all aspects of the public health system through the continued development of a proactive network of public health laboratories to protect and improve the health of the people of Canada.



CPHLN Background

1949—1999:

- Technical Advisory Committee

1994—2000:

- No functional laboratory network

2001:

- Canadian Public Health Laboratory Forum

2003:

- Canadian Public Health Laboratory formed
- Secretariat hired

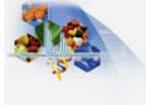
2005:

- Pan-Canadian Public Health Network Launched



CPHLN Membership

- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (10)
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Defence Research and Development Canada
- Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health
- Canadian Blood Services
- Héma-Québec
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- The CPHLN core is comprised of medical and scientific laboratory directors



CPHLN International Linkages

- CPHLN MOU with APHL
- *PulseNet Canada* linked to *PulseNet USA*
- *Chinese Public Health Laboratory Network for Emergency Response*
- CNPHI collaboration centers to link 23 countries within CAREC
- *Global Laboratory Network Directory MAP* (GLADMAP)
- Support of the *Global Health Security Action Group* (GHSAG)
- CNPHI Collaboration Centers
- Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America
 - Canada/Mexico/United States



APHL + CPHLN: MOU

- 2004: First Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between APHL and CPHLN
- Organizations pledged to communicate on matters re: affecting public health laboratories
 - Promise to provide support during public health emergencies affecting both countries.



APHL + CPHLN: First MOU-The Payoff

2007: The H2N2 Surprise

- A CAP proficiency test specimen containing viable H2N2 virus was sent to participating laboratories.
- CPHLN members among 1st to ID virus and potential public health implications
- CPHLN commenced chain of action alert:
Secretariat → APHL and CDC
- Facilitated APHL efforts with CAP and CDC to collect and destroy the specimens.



APHL + CPHLN Partners Across Borders



- 2008: New MOU signed between APHL & CPHLN.
- 2008: Joint APHL-CPHLN Cross-Border Pandemic Influenza Meeting, Toronto, Ontario.
 - Brought together the CPHLN membership with APHL members in the northern borders states.
 - APHL and CPHLN staff developed working relationships in the planning and conduct of the meeting.
 - Supported by US CDC and Canada NML.



APHL + CPHLN Partners Across Borders



2009: H1N1 Outbreak

- APHL and CPHLN collaborated to assure a coordinated public health laboratory response
 - Held regular conference calls
 - Exchanged information on technical challenges and successes



APHL + CPHLN Partners Across Borders



2009: APHL and CPHLN executive offices remain in constant communication at executive and staff levels.

- CPHLN contracts with APHL to develop a public health laboratory system assessment tool.
- CPHLN Secretariat makes direct reports to the APHL board.
- Discussions begin regarding a North American (US-Canada-Mexico) public health laboratory meeting.



Cross-Border Groups



Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI)

- Made up of 7 states and the Canadian Province of Ontario
- This group was created to share PH infectious disease information quickly
- Partnerships exist between epi, PHLs (EPR, ID and food safety), and PH law



GLBHI Accomplishments

- Maintain sentinel lab databases
- Created immediate notify lists
- Surge capacity agreements
- Increased communication
- Cross-border exercises
- Created legal agreements
- Five international conferences



Pacific Northwest Alliance

- Comprised of nine states and provinces
 - Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Saskatchewan, Yukon
- Pacific NW Border Health Alliance MOU signed May 27, 2009 by Oregon and Washington
 - As of December 2009: all states and provinces on board
 - Goals:
 - Prevent health threats caused by bioterrorism, epidemic/pandemic outbreak, infectious/biological toxin
 - Respond to surge capacity demands on health system
 - Assess current and explore future areas of operational response
- May 4-6, 2010: 7th Annual Pacific Northwest Cross-border Workshop

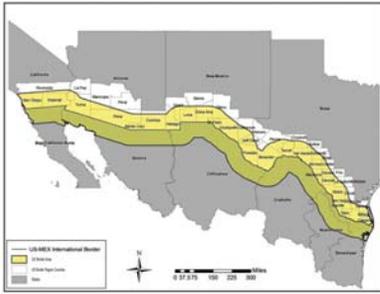


Eastern Border Health Initiative

- Consists of seven states and provinces
 - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec
- Three major workgroups: laboratories, legal, and surveillance
- Annual meetings held in Vermont



Southern Border



U.S. – Mexico Border Region Group

- Goal: To improve vertical and horizontal collaborations among the U.S. Mexico border states; the laboratory focus is on timely communication and sample transport
- U.S.-México Binational Infectious Disease Conference on June 28-29, 2010 in San Antonio, TX
 - Sponsored by U.S. – Mexico Border Health Commission



Southern Border Activities

- Arizona
 - Discussion to move TB and other samples across the border
 - Preliminary discussions for AZ to perform NBS testing for Sonora FFS
 - Use a secure website to communicate via Office of Border Health in Tucson
 - **Breaking News:** SB 1070 repercussion with Sonora
- California
 - San Diego, CA
 - July held a bi-national meeting with Baja representatives to discuss cross border activities
 - Challenges: Primary challenge is border crossing/safety
- New Mexico
- Texas



Open Discussion—Where Do We Go From Here?

- What are some of the lab priorities?
 - Are these priorities funded by EWIDS?
 - Successes?
 - Challenges?
- From the laboratory perspective, what are the critical needs?
- How can APHL help in addressing these needs and promoting the success of the regional lab activities?



Thank You!

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