



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Laboratory

DELAWARE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SYSTEM ASSESSMENT SURVEY

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1. What is your organization/agency/program?

Response	Percent	Count
Delaware Public Health Program	71.4%	10
– Other DHSS Program	0.0%	0
– State Agency (Non DHSS)	0.0%	0
– Hospital/Clinical Lab	21.4%	3
– College/University	0.0%	0
– Student	0.0%	0
– Federal Agency	0.0%	0
– Vendor	7.1%	1
– Other (please specify)		1

- *answered question 14*
- *skipped question 2*

2. My organization/agency/program is part of the State Public Health Laboratory System (SPHLS.)

Response	Percent	Count
• Yes	85.7%	12
• No	14.3%	2

- *answered question 14*
- *skipped question 2*

3. Please read the following and answer the questions below:

The state public health laboratory system (SPHLS) consists of all the participants in public health testing, including those who initiate testing and those who ultimately use the test results. The SPHLS consists of epidemiologists; first responders; environmental professionals in water, food and air surveillance activities; private clinical and environmental laboratories; and local public health laboratories. The primary stakeholders are directly involved in creating and using laboratory data.

I agree with the above definition of the SPHLS.

Response	Percent	Count
• Yes	86.7%	13
• No	0.0%	0
• Don't Know	13.3%	2

- *answered question 15*
- *skipped question 1*

4. Do you have a role within the SPHLS?

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	60.0%	9
No	26.7%	4
Don't Know	13.3%	2

If yes, how would you describe your role:

- 1. Coordinate with DPHL and Bureau of Epi in investigations and food sampling during foodborne disease outbreaks.*
- 2. Section chief microbiology of hospital clinical laboratory*
- 3. I provide HIV counseling and testing. I also perform Rapid HIV test. I interview and counsel clients who may have been exposed to an STD and recommend screening for STD's and HIV. I also counsel and interview clients who have tested positive for an STD; educate them about their disease and treatment for their disease.*
- 4. Assuring that funds are available for the laboratory to perform its work and that the infrastructure for the laboratory is sufficient to perform its functions and is safe to protect its employees.*
- 5. I help with grants that the lab and other related programs have. I am the Safety Officer in SHOC and work with safety liaisons from Public Health programs including the lab.*
- 6. Provide testing and advice to other partners on testing methods and results*
- 7. I am a primary stakeholder, as a user of PH lab services, which are integral to my program, and without which we could not function.*

5. Which organization/agency/program do you feel should lead the SPHLS?

There were 16 responses as noted below:

1. DPHL
2. I don't know.
3. The lab with an orientation to the others
4. EPI
5. Don't know. I am a nurse who uses the lab test results to treat clients.
6. Delaware department of public health
7. Division of Public Health
8. DHSS/DPH
9. Laboratory
10. DPH
11. The DHSS Division of Public Health
12. Division of Public Health
13. Not sure /someone else besides the lab
14. Local public health laboratories
15. The PH Laboratory, or a board of laboratorians and stakeholders advised by the PH lab.
16. Delaware Public Health Laboratory

The overwhelming majority believe the Division of Public Health and the Laboratory should lead the SPHLS.

6. Would you recommend that an advisory committee for the SPHLS be established?

Response	Percentage	Count
Yes	73.3%	11
No	0.0%	0
Don't Know	26.7%	4

- *answered question 15*
- *skipped question 1*

7. What would this committee do? Response Count 16

1. Define guidelines and responsibilities of participating laboratories
2. Organize and centralize all operations.
3. General advise
4. Determine capacities and responses.
5. Do not know. As above.
6. I don't know
7. To ensure that the mission is carried out and policies and procedures are followed.
8. I think we often get lost with advisory councils. They tend to expect certain things which may or may not be possible, particularly given the tight fiscal times we're in. As long as members are clear that their role is strictly ADVISORY, then it could perform some function for the SPHLS.
9. Guide the system.
10. Guide the implementation and management of the laboratory system
11. Not sure
12. Recommend policy and strategic direction
13. Collaborate on ideas
14. Oversee operations and approve new initiatives for the SPHLS
15. Survey the community for unmet (and met) needs, discuss and suggest ways to fill gaps in care.
16. Ensure that a Public Health System is established

8. Would you like to be part of this committee?

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	35.7% ⁹	5
No	64.3%	9

- answered question 14
- skipped question 2

9. I agree the SPHL partners should meet on a regular basis to: determine the SPHL mission and function, share concerns, discuss resources, establish plans and provide guidance.

Response	Percent	Count
• Monthly	0.0%	0
• Quarterly	53.3%	8
• Bi-Annually	20.0%	3
• Annually	26.7%	4
• Not at all	0.0%	0

- answered question 15
- skipped question 1

10. Develop a plan to strengthen and connect data systems to include an assessment of the capacity of DHIN (Delaware health Information Network) to connect state-wide medical information and integrate computer systems for two-way communications.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	0.0%	0
3 - Important	6.7%	1
4 - Very important	53.3%	8
5 - Extremely important	40.0%	6

- answered question 15
- skipped question 1

11. Finalize memoranda of understanding with partner laboratories to assure testing services are not interrupted and continuity of operations plans are completed.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	7.1%	1
3 - Important	14.3%	2
4 - Very important	28.6%	4
5 - Extremely important	50.0%	7

- answered question 14
- skipped question 2

12. Increase information sharing and education efforts through improved web site, LabOrator, Lab Week, press releases, etc.

	Response	Percent	Count
1.	Not at all important	0.0%	0
2.	Less important	13.3%	2
3.	Important	33.3%	5
4.	Very important	20.0%	3
5.	Extremely important	33.3%	5

Answered question: 15
Skipped question: 1

13. Develop advocacy groups for a state public health laboratory system (government, legislators and teachers, schools).

	Response	Percent	Count
	1 - Not at all important	7.1%	1
	2 - Less important	7.1%	1
	3 - Important	14.3%	2
	4 - Very important	28.6%	4
	5 - Extremely important	42.9%	6

- answered question 14
- skipped question 2

14. Define the mission for the SPH laboratory system and determine roles and responsibilities for each partner.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	0.0%	0
3 - Important	13.3%	2
4 - Very important	60.0%	9
5 - Extremely important	26.7%	4

- *answered question 15*
- *skipped question 1*

15. Prepare a SPH laboratory system communication plan.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	6.7%	1
3 - Important	20.0%	3
4 - Very important	46.7%	7
- Extremely important	26.7%	4

- *answered question 15*
- *skipped question 1*

16. Examine the role of the Laboratory Preparedness Advisory Committee.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	6.7%	1
3 - Important	26.7%	4
4 - Very important	53.3%	8
5 - Extremely important	13.3%	2

- *answered question 15*
- *skipped question 1*

17. Evaluate state laws and regulations to determine changes that need to be made and enforcement measures that need to be taken.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	0.0%	0
2 - Less important	0.0%	0
3 - Important	35.7%	5
4 - Very important	35.7%	5
5 - Extremely important	28.6%	4

- *answered question 14*
- *skipped question 2*

18. Establish a state education training coordinator position for the public health laboratory system.

Response	Percent	Count
1 - Not at all important	13.3%	2
2 - Less important	6.7%	1
3 - Important	6.7%	1
4 - Very important	46.7%	7
5 - Extremely important	26.7%	4

- answered question 15
- skipped question 1

19. Do you attend the Laboratory Preparedness Advisory Committee (LPAC) meetings?

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	53.3%	8
No	46.7%	7

- answered question 15
- skipped question 1

20. Would you recommend changing the structure and function of LPAC?

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	27.3%	3
No	72.7%	8

If yes, how?

1. Not sure, but both structure and function, I believe, need to be tightened up.
2. Don't know its current structure.
3. Not Sure
4. Not sure
5. LPAC could become the meeting for the public health laboratory system

- answered question 11
- skipped question 5