



Welcome!

2026 Virology Conference

Allen Bateman, PhD MPH D(ABMM)
Director, Communicable Disease Division



Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Outline



- Networking and getting to know you
- Updates from the WSLH
- Background on WCLN
 - LabTAG
 - WCLN Activities

Take Advantage of Networking!



- This and other in-person WCLN activities are for learning **AND** networking
- Benefits:
 - Connect clinical labs – public health labs – public health - researchers
 - Sharing tips and tricks
 - Troubleshooting assays/workflows/etc.
 - Share reagents during backorders
 - Reach out in an emergency
- **An emergency is not the time to exchange business cards!**



Getting to Know You



What is your background?

- A) Clinical laboratorian – microbiology specialist
- B) Clinical laboratorian – non-micro (generalist, etc.)
- C) Public health laboratorian
- D) Public health official (local or state health department)
- E) Researcher
- F) Other



Updates from the WSLH - 1



- **New WSLH Director**

- Toxicologist
- Spent 20 years at CDC in LRN-C, more recently at federal VA
- Has done good things so far at the state lab
- Will attend WCLN Regional Meeting in September

Rudolph Johnson named Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene director

October 3, 2025 | HONORS & AWARDS

Rudolph Johnson, a toxicologist with national leadership experience in emergency response and measuring human exposure to toxic substances, will be the next director of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH).

The laboratory serves as Wisconsin's public laboratory focused on clinical, environmental and occupational health. It is a key partner of the University of Wisconsin–Madison that reports to the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

Johnson joins the state laboratory from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, where he served as director of the military exposures research program since 2023. His career experiences have included leading national laboratory preparedness initiatives and public health programs focused on toxic substance exposure research and testing, analytical chemistry and laboratory modernization.



Rudolph Johnson

<https://www.med.wisc.edu/news/rudolph-johnson-director-wslh/>

Updates from the WSLH - 2



- **Purple Mountain Portal to order courier pickup**



- WSLH's contracted courier for certain types of specimens
 - Bacterial surveillance
 - Viral surveillance
 - Measles
 - TB
- Online portal to order pickups to replace calling Purple Mountain for a pick-up
- Similar to WSLH's Newborn Screening portal
- Is currently being rolled out in phases
- For questions, contact CDD Customer Service at 800-862-1013



Updates from the WSLH - 2



Place Order

Track Order

Reports

Place Order

Track Order

Reports

CDD - WSLH

Powered by e-courier

Place Order

Enter your order details here

Attach File(s) Fill with EZ Ship

Order Ready By

Ready by* Thursday April 2, 2026 09:30 AM CDT ASAP

Caller

Name* e.g. John Smith

Phone* e.g. (5

Service Details

Delivery Service type* Contract Package type (optional) Box

Pieces* e.g. 3 Weight* e.g. 5lbs lbs

Vehicle* Mini Van

Description (optional)

Track Order

Find your order using the search bar and follow it using the map on the right.

Keywords What are you looking for?

Date Range Past 2 weeks

Advanced Search

Once you search for keywords your results will appear here

Updates from the WSLH - 3

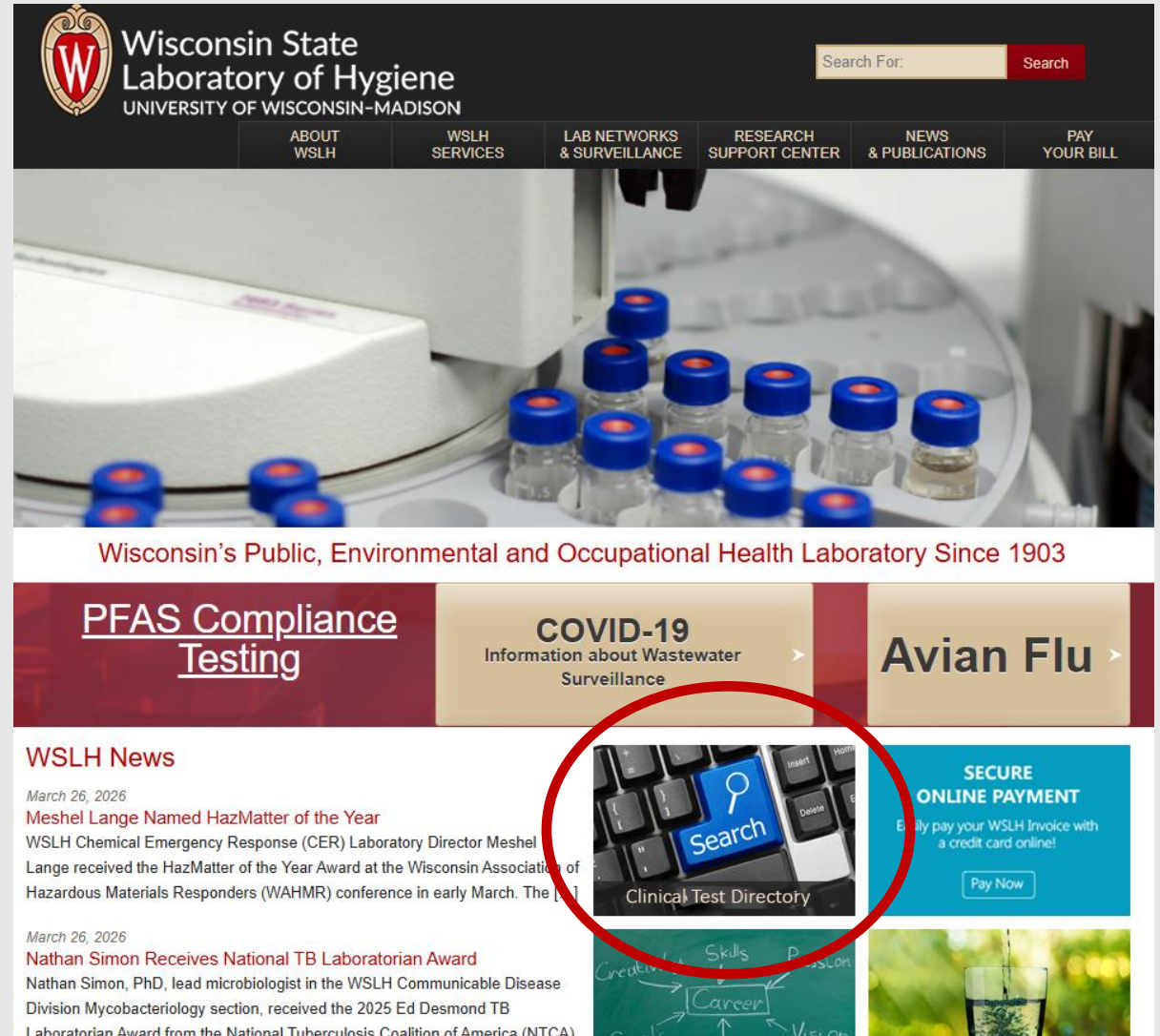


- Actively working on a new WSLH website! Likely live later this year

Updates from the WSLH - 3



- Actively working on a new WSLH website! Likely live later this year
- New WSLH Clinical Test Directory last year





Test Directory

Search

A B C
D E F
G H I
J K L
M N O
P Q R
S T U
V W X
Y Z

Quick Links

Communicable
Disease

Clinical Testing Services

Welcome to the WSLH Clinical Test Directory. To find information about clinical tests offered at WSLH, please type a key word, such as the common or technical name of the infectious organism you are interested in, or a portion of the test name, into the search box on the left. Leave the search box blank for a listing of all tests, but be sure to click individual listings for current status and availability.

If the search does not return the test you are looking for, even after confirming spelling and trying other related search terms, please contact Customer Service at **800-862-1013** for assistance.

The listed Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code(s) reflect the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's (WSLH) interpretation of CPT coding requirements and are provided for guidance only. It is the responsibility of each laboratory to determine the correct CPT codes to use for billing. The WSLH assumes no responsibility for billing errors due to reliance on the CPT codes published.

Customers requesting clinical testing services for specimens collected outside of Wisconsin, please read [Out-of-State Requests for Clinical Testing Services](#) before sending specimens to the WSLH.



Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

[ABOUT
WSLH](#)[WSLH
SERVICES](#)[LAB NETWORKS
& SURVEILLANCE](#)[RESEARCH
SUPPORT CENTER](#)[NEWS
& PUBLICATIONS](#)[PAY
YOUR BILL](#)

Test Directory

Measles Virus PCR

[Test Overview](#)[Specimen and Transport](#)[Interpretation](#)[Test Method](#)[Billing and Coding](#)

A B C
D E F
G H I
J K L
M N O
P Q R
S T U
V W X

WSLH Department: CDD - Communicable Disease Division

WSLH Test Code: VR01713

Day(s) Performed: Daily, Monday - Friday

Turn-around Time: 1-3 Days

Outline



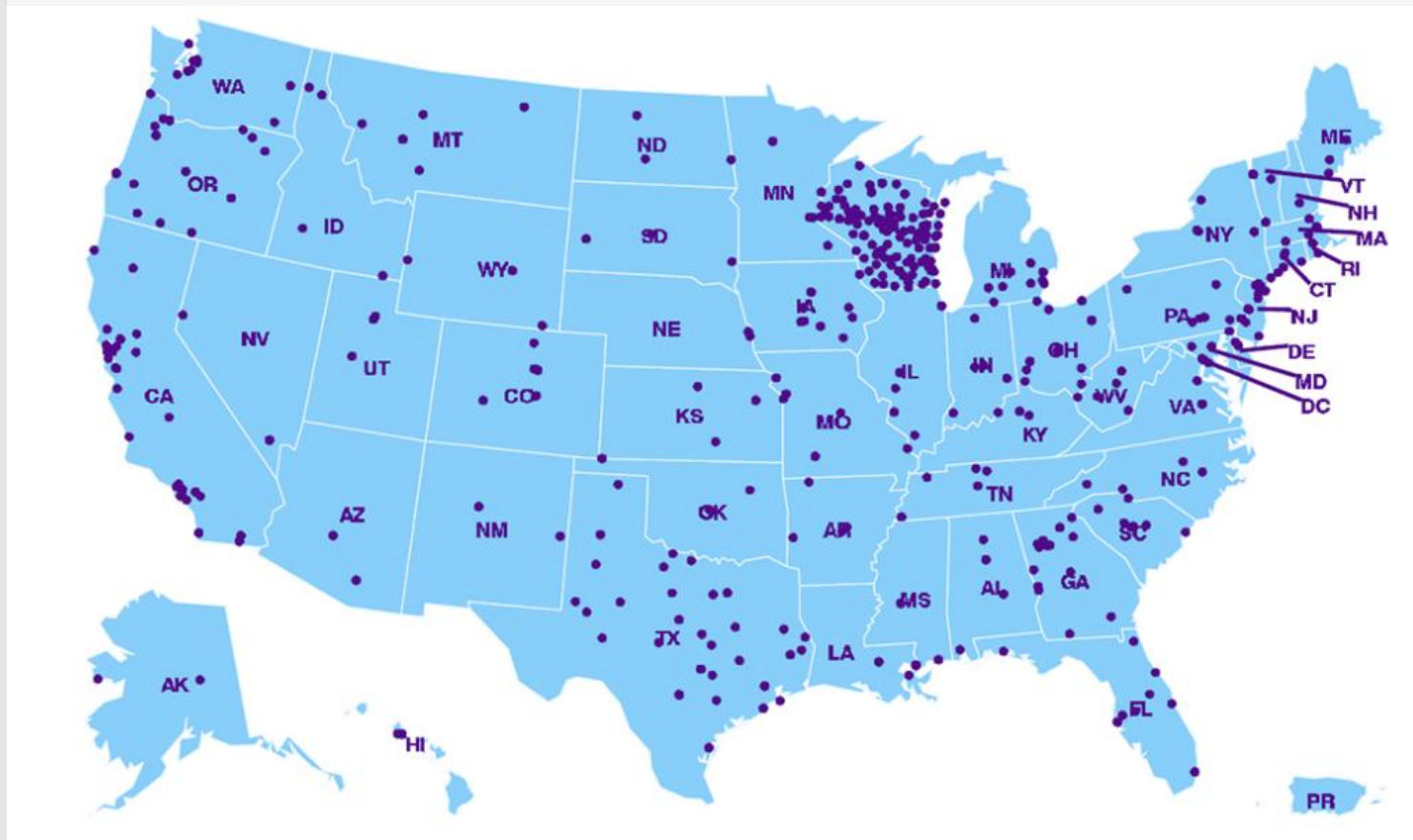
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Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network

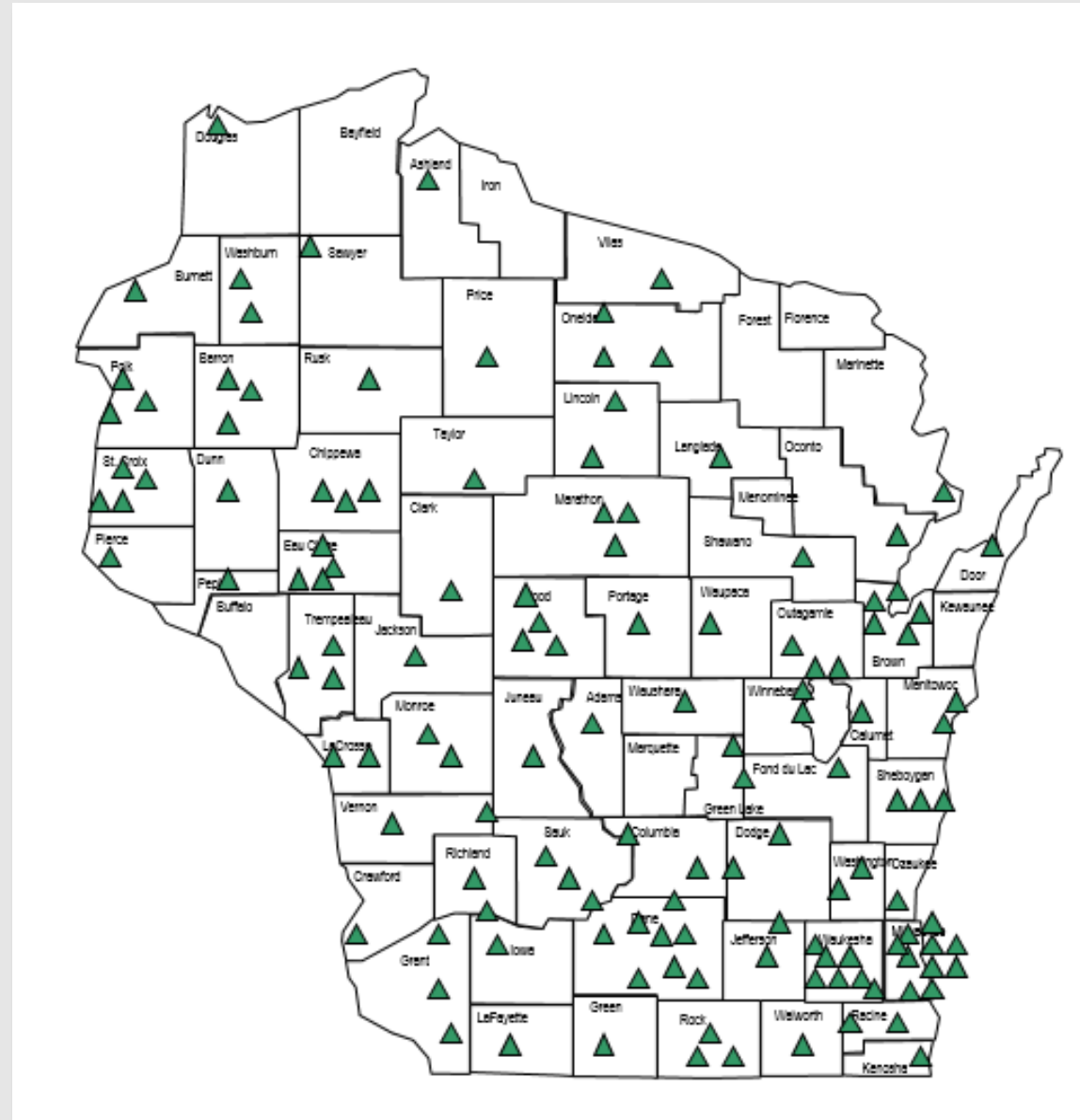


Nationally recognized as the gold standard in state laboratory networks

The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)



The Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network: An “**All-hazards**” Network of Sentinel Labs



What is the WCLN?

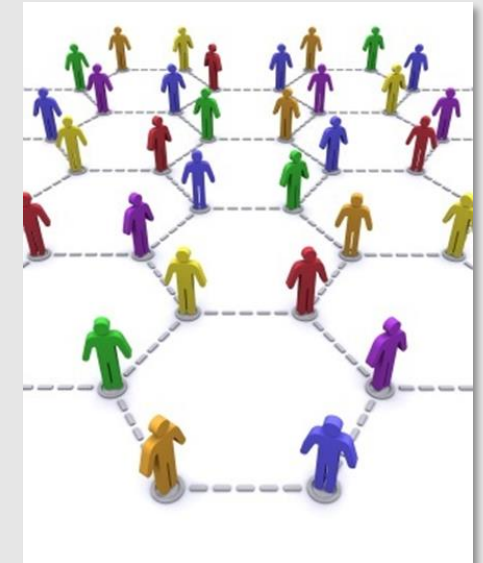


- Comprised of ~130 clinical and public health laboratories in WI
- ~45 laboratories meet the Sentinel Clinical Laboratory Definition and perform rule-out-testing for bioterrorism agents
- WCLN coordinated by the WSLH
- WSLH partners with and is supported by a Laboratory Technical Advisory Group (LabTAG)



Main WCLN activities

- Training and education
- Facilitating communication
- Public health surveillance
- Emergency response drills/communication and actual emergency response (measles, SARS-CoV-2, etc.)

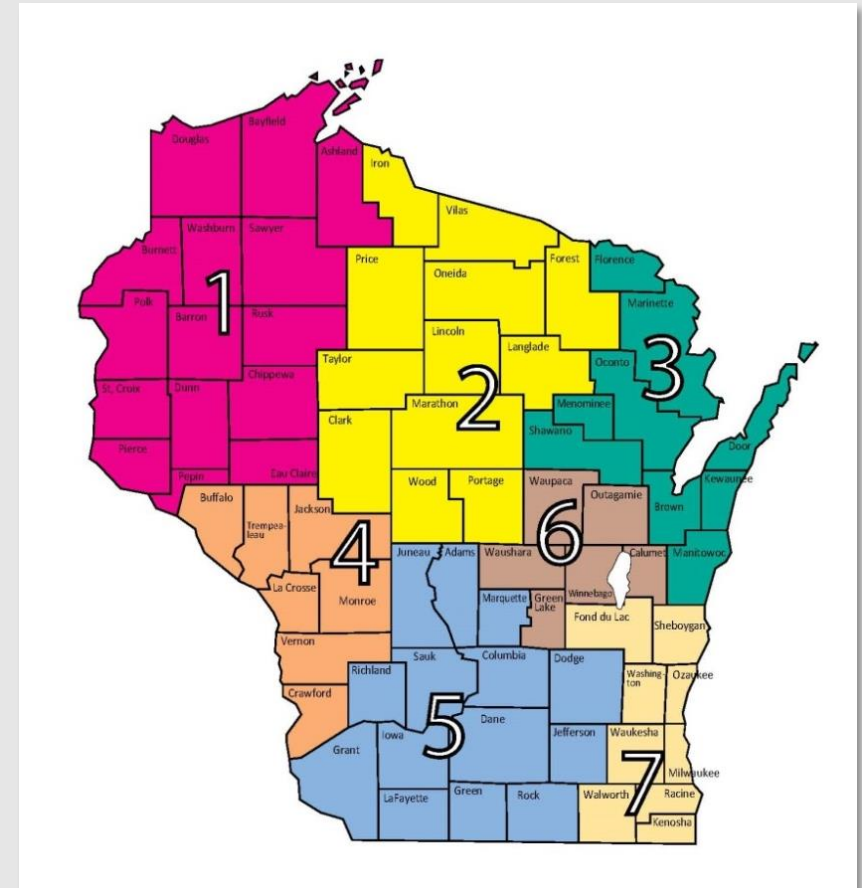


The magic sauce that makes the WCLN work



What is LabTAG?

- One member from each of the seven emergency preparedness regions in WI
- Plus three or more additional at-large members
- Members are reflective of the different types of clinical laboratories
- Purposely engage Ph.D. level microbiologists, lab administrators and bench technologists
- Meet annually for an all day face to face meeting
- Have monthly conference calls
- Written mission, objectives, and expectations



The Value of LabTAG



FOR WSLH:

- Provide insights into the clinical laboratories
- Valuable partners who support public health initiatives
- Help with educational events



LABTAG MEMBERS:

- Networking
- Focus Group
- Advocate for clinical microbiology profession and for its role in public health
- Teaching opportunities
- LabTAG meetings are fruitful
- Personal benefits
 - Promotions due to LabTAG connections
 - Jump-starting antibiotic surveillance network

WCLN Training and Education



- Provide free P.A.C.E.® credit annually through:
 - 8 webinars per year
 - In-person Microbiology Lab Technical Conference – April
 - **In-person Virology Conference – May/June**
 - In-person Regional Meetings – September
 - Eau Claire
 - Appleton
 - Madison
 - In-person Mycobacteriology Conference – November

**34th Annual**
P.A.C.E.® Approved

Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Wisconsin Virology Conference

Thursday, May 28th, 2026
8:00am - 3:30 PM

Fluno Center, UW-Madison
601 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715



Topics:

- Marburg outbreak in Rwanda (2024-25)
- An introduction to the BioFire Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel
- Rhinoviruses
- Measles in Wisconsin: An update from Public Health
- Ongoing national vaccine efficacy and safety studies
- A comparison of current viral surveillance methods

Invited Speakers:

- [James Gern](#), MD, UW-Madison
- [Erika Hanson](#), MS, WSLH
- [Amanda Kita-Yarbro](#), MPH, Public Health—Madison & Dane County
- [Joshua Petrie](#), PhD, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- [Stephanie Schauer](#), PhD, WI Dept. of Health Services
- [Alana Sterkel](#), PhD, D(ABMM), SM(ASCP), WSLH
- [Maria Sundaram](#), PhD, MPH, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- [Ryan Westergaard](#), MD, PhD, MPH, UW-Madison, WI Dept. of Health Services

Program and Target Audience:

This annual conference provides a platform for participants to explore emerging topics in clinical and public health virology and gain insights into current viral surveillance and testing efforts across Wisconsin. The program is designed for a wide audience, and will provide attendees an opportunity to learn about viruses of clinical and public health importance and to network with other clinical microbiologists in Wisconsin.

This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and is offered at no charge. A morning break, and afternoon break will be provided. WSLH has applied for approval as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. 6.0 contact hours have been requested for this session. Instruction level: Intermediate

Registration:

Register Online by **May 21, 2026** at the following link: <https://forms.gle/1poYSihsV3Pi4Akz6>

For more information, contact: Erika Hanson at Erika.hanson@slh.wisc.edu



WCLN Facilitating Communication



- Monthly newsletter for news items, WCLN activities, other info and guidance
- Listserv for clinical laboratorians to discuss technical issues
- Networking time at the in-person conferences
- In-person visits to clinical labs

[wcln] Laboratory Identification of Emerging Pathogenic Molds-Series



wcln@g-groups.wisc.edu on behalf of rbdern@charter.net
To Wis Clin Lab Network

See pdf with this link or in email below.

https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/Documents/%2726Mold_WebinarSeriesFlyer_Final.pdf

Richard Dern MS
Medical Microbiologist

May 13, 2026



Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WISCONSIN LABORATORY MESSAGE

The WI State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) Communicable Disease Division (CDD) provides laboratory updates and alerts to clinical laboratories statewide. We rely on you to share this message with colleagues in your facility.

CDD Customer Service | (800) 862-1013 | Mon – Fri | 7:45AM CT – 4:30PM CT

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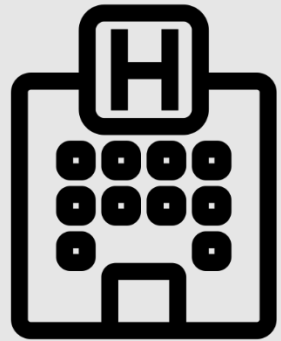
To update emergency contact information for your facility, please email WCLN@slh.wisc.edu and provide: Full Name | Title | Facility | City | Phone Number | E-mail.

[WSLH Surveillance Program & Data](#) & [WSLH Clinical Test Directory](#)

--- IMPORTANT HANTAVIRUS UPDATES ---

The CDC issued a recent health alert on May 8 titled: [HAN-00528 2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise Ship](#). As of May 12, there are 11 known cases, including three deaths. Case counts may change as additional cruise ship passengers become symptomatic, given the prolonged incubation period associated with Hantavirus infection, which can extend for several weeks following exposure.

Public Health Surveillance

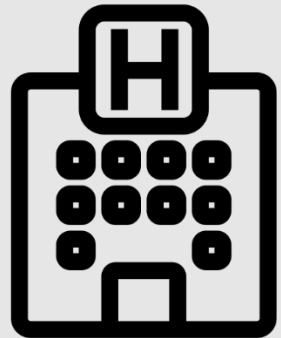


Data, samples, isolates



**Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Data summaries,
surveillance reports



Respiratory pathogens
GI pathogens
Bacteriology (AR and invasive)
Mycobacteriology

Lab Networks & Surveillance

- Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network
- Training Events

Surveillance

- Bacteriology Surveillance
 - Mycobacteriology Surveillance
- Virology Surveillance
- Gastropathogen Surveillance
- Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network

Clinical Testing Data Surveillance

In collaboration with other public health partners, the WSLH has developed data-driven statewide respiratory and gastrointestinal pathogen surveillance programs in Wisconsin. Weekly reporting of diagnostic testing data to WSLH is important so that public health partners know what communicable diseases are impacting community health in Wisconsin. The complete Laboratory-based surveillance plan for the 2023-24 season is available at the bottom of this page.

Surveillance Reports

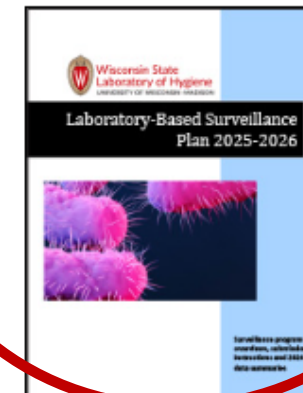
Wisconsin Laboratory Surveillance Report (WSLH)

- Current 
- Archive
- Sign-up for the Wisconsin Laboratory Surveillance Report



Wisconsin Division of Public Health Weekly ILI Report (WDPH)

2025-2026 Laboratory-Based Surveillance Plan





Laboratory-Based Surveillance Plan 2025-2026



Surveillance program
overviews, submission
instructions and 2024-25
data summaries

▲ Lab Networks & Surveillance

- ▷ Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network
- Training Events

▲ Surveillance

- ▷ Bacteriology Surveillance
 - Mycobacteriology Surveillance
- ▷ Virology Surveillance
- ▷ Gastrointestinal Pathogen Surveillance
- ▷ Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network

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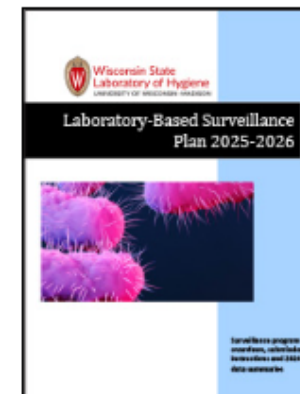
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Wisconsin Division of Public Health Weekly ILI Report (WDPH)

2025-2026 Laboratory-Based Surveillance Plan



Laboratory Surveillance Report

** For a selection of pathogens, participating Wisconsin clinical laboratories voluntarily report to WSLH on a weekly basis the total number of tests performed, and the number of those tests with positive results.

To Enhance Surveillance Activities, Please Send:

All Testing Sites:

- Two influenza-related hospitalizations per week
- ALL Influenza A positive specimens:
 - From patients admitted to the ICU
 - With swine, bovine or poultry exposure
 - With international travel history
 - That fail to subtype as H1 or H3 (Ct <35)
- Up to 5 SARS-CoV-2 positive specimens per week
- All Enterovirus positive CSF specimens

Respiratory Snapshot:

- Influenza activity is **decreasing** in Wisconsin (1.9%) and nationally (3.1%)

- Nationally, Influenza B is the dominant type circulating (83%).

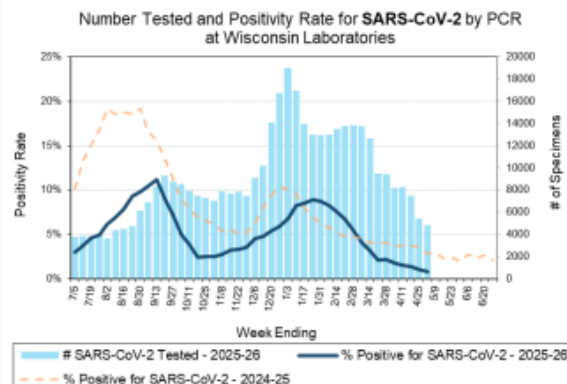
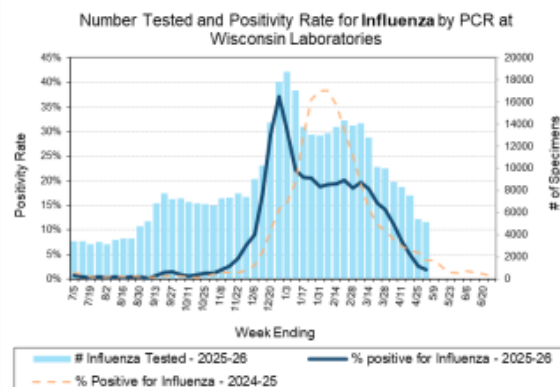
- Rhinovirus/Enterovirus (24.9%) and hMPV (5.5%) activities are moderate in Wisconsin.

Enteric Snapshot:

- Norovirus (10.9%), rotavirus (5.8%) activities are **elevated** in Wisconsin.

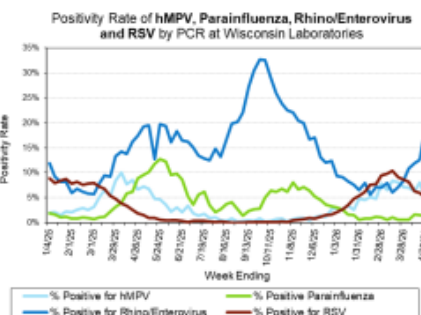
Other:

- Group A *Streptococcus* activity in Wisconsin is **moderate** (20.1%).



34th Annual
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Thursday, May 28th
Registration Open!

[CLICK HERE](#) OR



Next Page

Laboratory Surveillance Report

Enteric Pathogens

Week Ending 5/2/26

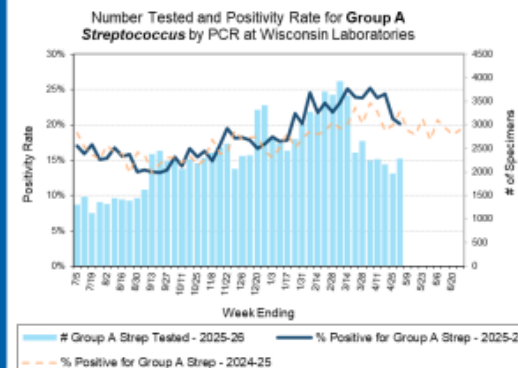
	# Tested	% Positive
Norovirus***	499	9.8%
Rotavirus	479	5.8%
Astrovirus	415	3.1%
Campylobacter	552	2.0%
Salmonella	552	1.1%
Sapovirus	415	1.0%
Cryptosporidium	548	0.5%
Giardia	548	0.5%
Yersinia enterocolitica	552	0.4%
STEC	552	0.2%
Vibrio	506	0.2%
Adenovirus 40/41	415	0.2%
Entamoeba histolytica	499	0.2%
Aeromonas	35	0.0%
E. coli O157	230	0.0%
Plesiomonas shigelloides	448	0.0%
Shigella/EIEC	552	0.0%
Cyclospora	424	0.0%

***BioMerieux has announced an increased risk of false positive norovirus results with the BioFire FilmArray GI panel, which may increase the statewide norovirus percent positivity **

Respiratory Pathogens

Week Ending 5/2/26

	# Tested	% Positive
Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	1169	24.9%
Human metapneumovirus	807	5.5%
RSV	4861	3.1%
Seasonal coronaviruses	668	2.5%
Influenza	5131	1.9%
Parainfluenza	758	1.6%
Adenovirus	791	1.5%
SARS-CoV-2	4849	0.8%
Bordetella pertussis	598	0.2%



Additional Information

- Additional Information on avian influenza testing and influenza surveillance at WSLH: <https://www.slh.wisc.edu/clinical/diseases/h5n1-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-update/>
- Additional information on respiratory pathogens can be found on the DHS website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/respiratory.htm>
- Activity graphs for a variety of respiratory pathogens can be found on the DHS Respiratory Illness Dashboard: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/laboratory-based-data.htm>
- Activity graphs for a variety of gastrointestinal pathogens can be found on the WSLH website: <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/wcln-surveillance/surveillance/gastropathogen-surveillance/>

To subscribe to this report, email WCLN@slh.wisc.edu

Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network



- WSLH developed and facilitates this network
 - Requires funding and lots of time and effort
 - Remains a WSLH priority
- A recognized national model for a well-functioning lab network
- Critical to surveillance, outbreak response, new method development, etc.
- It's all about personal relationships

Case Study/Practice

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
REPORTS**

Strengthening Public Health in Wisconsin Through the Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network

Allen C. Bateman, PhD, MPH¹; Erin J. Bowles, BS¹; Erik Munson, PhD²; Raymond P. Podzorski, PhD³; Eric T. Beck, PhD⁴; Richard Dern, MS¹; Alana K. Sterkel, PhD¹; David M. Warshauer, PhD¹; and Peter A. Shult, PhD¹

Public Health Reports
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DOI: 10.1177/0033354919837196
journals.sagepub.com/home/phr



New WCLN Coordinator!



- Science communication is my passion!
 - 15 years at the lab bench
 - 8 years in the lecture hall
- Interweaving education into diagnostic and surveillance testing to make Wisconsin a healthier place is where I fit in.
- I'm here to coordinate with you to make your work more fulfilling and more successful by building connections with you and helping you solve challenges.
- Nicholas.Zumwalde@slh.wisc.edu



May 13, 2026



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