



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

WSLH Emergency Pager | (608) 263-3280 | Emergencies only | 24 hours/day | 7 days/week

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](#)



--- JULY 4 HOLIDAY SHIPPING AND RECEIVING HOURS ---



	July 3 Friday	July 4 Saturday (Holiday)	July 5 Sunday
Specimen Receiving	6:00 AM – 4:30 PM	CLOSED	CLOSED
Customer Service	7:45 AM – 4:30 PM	CLOSED	CLOSED
Purple Mountain (Scheduled by Noon)	Friday Pick-up with Monday Delivery	*NO ROUTINE PICK-UP	

*Please note that Purple Mountain Courier Service will **NOT** pick up specimens on Saturday (7/4) or Sunday (7/5). Please plan to retain specimens in your lab in temperature-controlled environments and package on pick-up day. Ensure sufficient **frozen** packs to keep specimens cold during transport.

--- NEW REDCAP CLINICAL SURVEILLANCE PORTAL GOING LIVE ---

The WSLH is excited to announce an upcoming transition to our new clinical surveillance data reporting system.

For the reporting week ending on July 4, 2026 all clinical surveillance data reporting will move to a new **REDCap portal**. This means that all 2026–2027 clinical surveillance data (or data collected *starting the week of June 28 - July 4 and onward*) **must** be submitted through the new system.



The current reporting portal that you are familiar with will remain available through September 1, 2026 to allow submitters time to complete any remaining 2025–2026 season reporting. This means that data generated **on or before week ending on June 27** **must** be reported through the old portal.

Please reach out with questions to our team at: WCLN@slh.wisc.edu. Please see the links below for further information regarding this important change.

[REDCap Data Portal Access](#) | [Instructions for REDCap Portal](#) | [Additional Details](#)

--- IMPORTANT BUNDIRUGYO EBOLA VIRUS UPDATES ---

On May 19, the CDC issued the health alert: [CDCHAN-00530 Ebola Disease Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda](#), which the WSLH also highlighted in our special outbreak messaging sent out May 21. On June 15, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a record number of cases in a single day, highlighting that this outbreak continues to grow. There have now been 782 confirmed cases and 181 deaths. The Bundibugyo virus has an incubation period of 2 to 21 days post exposure and is spread via direct contact with bodily fluids, not airborne transmission. Please take this opportunity to update your emergency preparedness and laboratory biosafety procedures.

In the event of a suspected case, immediately contact the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (normal hours: 608-267-9003; after hours: 608-258-0099). Pre-approval for testing by DHS, CDC, and WSLH is required. If approved, RT-PCR testing is available, fee-exempt, at the WSLH.

Testing requires TWO tubes of EDTA blood (≥ 4 mL each). Specimens should be shipped Category A with frozen cold packs ($2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$) and are eligible for fee-exempt STAT courier service upon approval. During an event, we will work with you to ensure appropriate transportation is arranged.

The WSLH turnaround time for testing is 1-3 days. Negative and presumptive positive results are generally available same day and confirmation testing of positives at CDC may take an additional 1-2 days. Presumptive positive results are actionable. Please see this [updated link for additional information regarding Ebola virus shipping and testing at the WSLH](#).

--- FREE SELF-LED CATEGORY A PACKAGING AND SHIPPING TRAINING ---

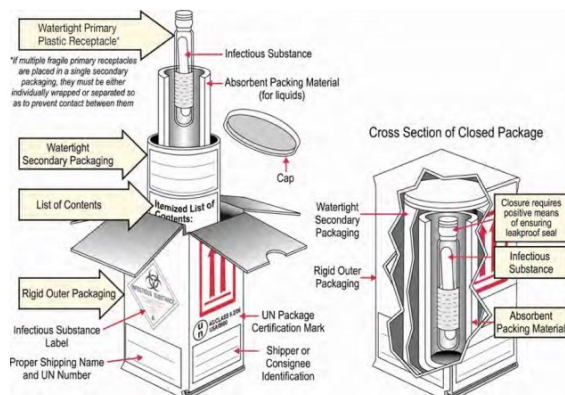


Figure 1. Category A packaging (from the CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/packaging-diagram.html>)

For facilities that need updated Category A packaging and shipping training (CAP requires at least one person per lab maintain certification), there are still a few seats remaining for free, self-led, online Saf-T-Pak training modules funded through an APHL/CDC program. Upon successful completion of the program you will receive an official certificate. The available seats are first come, first serve. If interested please email the [WCLN Coordinator](#) by June 29th with the following information:

**First Name | Last Name | Facility | Street Address |
City | State | Zip | Email | Phone Number**

--- SUCCESSFUL WISCONSIN VIROLOGY CONFERENCE ---

The 2026 Wisconsin Virology Conference held at the Fluno Center on the UW-Madison campus on May 28 was a vibrant and highly successful event that brought together around 80 clinical microbiologists, researchers, clinicians and public health professionals from across the state for a day of education and networking. Our event showcased the depth and importance of virology in our lives today and weaved together local and global perspectives. Presentations gave attendees a well-rounded view of the field specifically highlighting recent outbreaks, ongoing efforts in vaccine safety and efficacy, and the ever-changing landscape of viral surveillance.

June 17, 2026

Overall, the meeting was a standout success, as it was informative, inspiring, and a testament to the strength of the virology community as we continue to celebrate our shared commitment to advancing clinical and public health virology in Wisconsin.

--- SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS ---

The annual WCLN Regional Meeting locations and dates have been scheduled. We encourage you to participate in these one-day educational events at a location convenient to you.

Regional Meeting options:

September 22 | Neenah | DoubleTree Neenah

September 23 | Eau Claire | Holiday Inn Eau Claire South

September 25 | Madison | DoubleTree by Hilton Madison East

More details about speakers and event information will be shared soon.

--- DHS MEASLES TESTING UPDATE ---

The Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS) recently issued a statement that **strongly recommends** that all measles testing, both PCR and serological, on **suspected patients** be sent to the WSLH for **fee-exempt testing**. Pre-approval through DHS for testing is no longer needed. As a Category I Reportable Disease, this change has been implemented for measles as a mechanism to reduce the spread and facilitate quicker turnaround in diagnostics, surveillance, and patient care. Serological testing for assessing pre-existing immunity on healthy individuals should not be sent to the WSLH. For more information, please refer to the DHS memo directly [here](#).

--- HANTAVIRUS TESTING CDC UPDATES ---

On May 18, the CDC issued an updated Andes virus Hantavirus health alert titled: [CDCHAN-00529 2026 Hantavirus Outbreak: Testing for Potential Infection](#). As of June 11, there have been no cases of Andes virus confirmed in the United States as a result of the cruiseship outbreak. The overall risk to the American public is extremely low at this time. Again, as denoted last month, for test request pre-approval, clinicians and laboratories must consult the CDC Viral Special Pathogens Branch at 770-488-7100 or spather@cdc.gov to discuss diagnostic testing. Additional testing details at CDC can be found in their Test Directory: see [CDC Test Code CDC-10620](#).

--- RESULTS FOR INFORMACAST WCLN TIMED EXERCISE ---

Thank you for your participation in the recent WCLN InformaCast Timed Emergency Response Exercise on June 2. Our ideal benchmark was to have labs respond within 24 hours. We succeeded in having 86.3% of clinical labs respond within 72 hours. This is up 14% from 2024. The preferred modes of response confirmation by participants was through email (58%) and text (17%). The WSLH applauds your dedication and hard work to making this important exercise a success.

This year we also attached a survey to the notification that helps us understand if your lab meets the definition of a *Sentinel Clinical Laboratory*. This status is important for our work at the WSLH as a LRN reference laboratory. If possible, we encourage you to answer the following question.

Does your lab meet the definition below of a Sentinel Clinical Laboratory?

"Sentinel laboratories are certified to perform high complexity testing under CLIA for Clinical Microbiology. Sentinel laboratory in-house testing includes Gram stains and at least one of the following: lower respiratory tract, wound or blood cultures. These labs are capable of rule out testing and referral to a LRN reference laboratory"

Please email your updated sentinel lab status and contact information to the [WCLN Coordinator](#).

--- UPCOMING AND PREVIOUS CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY WEBINARS ---

Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network (WCLN) Sponsored

Title: Not Playing the Long Game: Accelerated Testing for Mycobacterial Diagnostics

Registration Link: [June 2026 Webinar](#)
(June 23 9:00AM-10:00AM CT)

Presenter: Nathan Simon, Ph.D.
WI TB Lab Program Coordinator at WSLH

Description: This webinar will focus on diagnostic testing for mycobacteria as seen through an historical lens and then transitioning to a "modern mycobacteriology" testing algorithm currently used at the WSLH. Particular attention will be placed on molecular testing methods used to rapidly identify organism or drug resistance, including advances in targeted next-generation or whole-genome sequencing.

Title: Recommendations for Lyme Disease Testing and Diagnosis in Wisconsin

May 2026 Webinar Slides
(Recording not yet available.)

Presenter: Rebecca Osborn, MPH
Vectorborne Disease Epidemiologist at DHS

Description: Diagnostic testing for Lyme disease relies upon serologic testing algorithms which involve multiple tests with result interpretations that change depending on timing of testing and clinical presentation. This can lead to misinterpretation among providers and patients. In this webinar, recommendations for appropriate use, interpretation, and reporting of Lyme disease diagnostic tests in the state are reviewed.



Title: 2026 Updates to CLSI M100

Presenter: Erik Munson, Ph.D., D(ABMM)
WCLN At Large LabTAG Member

[April 2026 Webinar Recording](#)

Description: This webinar discusses the major annual updates to the 2026 M100 (36th ed.) document.

Title: Foundational Training for the Entry-level Clinical Microbiologist | Basic Skills Parts I & II

Presenter: Erik Munson, Ph.D., D(ABMM)
WCLN At Large LabTAG Member

[January 2026 Webinar Recording \(I\)](#)

[February 2026 Webinar Recording \(II\)](#)

Description: These webinars provide foundational training in entry-level clinical micro lab skills. These sessions demonstrate colony & cell morphology, hemolysis, and media selection. It provides introductory knowledge to the triage of primary culture plates and baseline biochemical tests and focus on the CLSI M35-A2 document titled "Abbreviated Identification of Bacteria and Yeast". Part III is aiming for an August release.

American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Press Sponsored

Session I: Respiratory Cultures

Posted recording (from February 2026)

Kevin Alby, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

Director of Microbiology, Brown Univ. Health

Session II: Urine Cultures

Posted Recording (from May 2026)

Blake W. Buchan, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

*Professor, Department of Pathology, MCW
Director, Clinical Microbiology, Children's WI*

Session III: Wound Cultures

July 21, 2026 (11:00AM CT)

**Christopher D. Doern, Ph.D., D(ABMM) &
Alexandra L. Bryson, Ph.D., D(ABMM)**

Session IV: Body Fluid Cultures

November 4, 2026 (11:00AM CT)

**Nicholas M. Moore, Ph.D., D(ABMM),
MLS(ASCP)CM**

*Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology &
Associate Professor, Rush Univ. Medical Center*