

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](#)

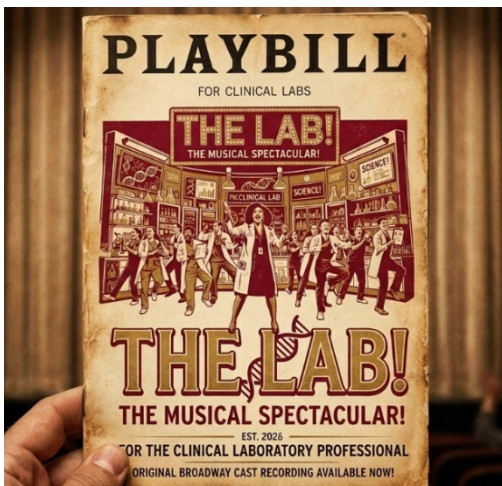
--- WSLH CLOSED LABOR DAY ---

The State Lab will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. As a reminder, our Saturday specimen receiving hours open at 8:00AM.

	Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Labor Day
Specimen Receiving	6:00AM – 4:30PM	8:00AM – 12:00PM	CLOSED	CLOSED
Customer Service	7:45AM – 4:30PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

Please retain specimens in your lab in temperature-controlled environments prior to shipping. Please ensure sufficient frozen packs are available to keep specimens cold during transport.

--- REGISTRATION FOR WCLN FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS IS OPEN ---



Registration for the annual Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network (WCLN) Regional Meetings is now available. We hope that you can participate in these one-day educational and networking events at a stage nearest to you. Topics for this year include: antimicrobial-resistant fungi, *Cyclospora*, Ebola, data dashboard updates, surveillance updates, LRN emergency response, etc.

2026 Regional Meeting Locations:

Sept 22 | Neenah | DoubleTree Neenah

Sept 23 | Eau Claire | Holiday Inn Eau Claire South

Sept 25 | Madison | DoubleTree by Hilton Madison East

Please use this [link to register for an event](#) that is most convenient for you!

--- UPDATED LAB SURVEILLANCE BOOKLET BEING MAILED OUT SOON ---

We are happy to announce that our updated **Laboratory-Based Surveillance Plan 2026-2027** booklet will be made available and sent out to labs within the next month.

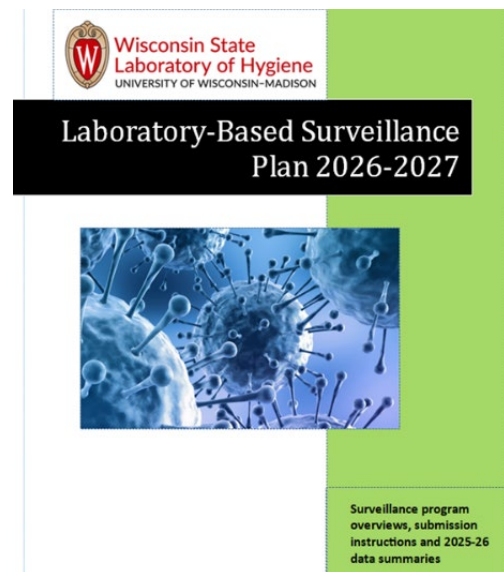
For your early awareness, some of the major changes from last year to this year include the following:

Specimen Samples No Longer Requested

- 1) *Cryptosporidium* positives
- 2) *Babesia* positives

Updated Requests for PCR Data

- 1) *Chlamydia pneumoniae* (# tested, # pos)
- 2) *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (# tested, # pos)
- 3) Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) type
- 4) Norovirus type



--- NEW MALARIA PCR ASSAY FOR SURVEILLANCE AT WSLH ---

As a newly designated Reference Laboratory for the CDC's Parasitology Surveillance Network, the State Lab is excited to publicize an [updated Malaria PCR assay](#) to our test directory. The expanded assay now includes the following five targets: *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae*, and *P. knowlesi*, with *P. knowlesi* being the newest addition. This update allows for further characterization of malaria-positive specimens and continues to support regional surveillance efforts.

Again, this test is intended for **surveillance purposes only** and not primary diagnosis. Laboratories should continue to perform in-house identification of blood parasites before sending malaria-positive blood smears and EDTA whole blood specimens to WSLH. To support our surveillance, we ask for all positive malaria specimens identified statewide to be sent to WSLH.

For more information about the Parasitology Surveillance Network, please visit:

<https://www.slh.wisc.edu/wcln-surveillance/surveillance/parasitology-surveillance-network/>

--- ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS CORE LAB TESTING CONCERNS FOR EBOLA PUI ---

A recent [August 2026 commentary article by Heger N.E. et al. from the Journal of Clinical Microbiology](#) takes a systematic approach to determining the feasibility of clinical microbiology labs to provide core lab testing under CDC guidelines that encourage testing for persons under investigation (PUI) for Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fever viruses. The authors assessed their own world-renown facility (Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA) and concluded “...that safe use of our core laboratory automated instruments for Ebola PUI testing could not be implemented without significant unresolved risk at this time.” Ebola laboratory preparedness is a topic of paramount concern for laboratory staff and the general public and this article attempts to draw some clarity from federal and

state guidelines in concert with in-house risk assessments. We hope that the information herein regarding instrumentation capabilities, specimen workflow constraints, waste disposal, regulatory requirements, and assessment of current biosafety infrastructure guides labs statewide that are in the process of revising and creating updated workflows to accommodate Ebola PUI core lab testing.

If laboratory personnel are interested in communicating with other laboratorians around the state regarding how to navigate these Ebola PUI testing concerns, [please sign up](#) here to become part of the WCLN email listserv to interact with colleagues about these and other clinical lab-related topics.

--- ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE TESTING UPDATES AT WSLH ---

Beginning August 24, WSLH will no longer routinely provide antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) results for isolates submitted through our Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) monitoring program.

This change follows updated CDC guidance for surveillance activities. Many submitted isolates will no longer undergo comprehensive AST, and AST results will not be returned to submitting labs.

WSLH will continue to perform targeted AST on selected isolates to monitor for cephem and carbapenem resistance. A smaller subset of isolates will receive more extensive testing as a part of national surveillance through the [AR Lab Network](#). This testing is for surveillance and results will not be reported to submitters.

WSLH is developing a separate clinical AST service for multi-drug-resistant gram-negative organisms, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Enterobacterales species, and *Acinetobacter baumannii*. This service is expected to provide clinical results in three business days. Additional information, including availability and submission requirements, will be shared when implementation timelines are finalized.

WSLH is also modifying carbapenemase testing for carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* (CRAB) to follow CDC guidelines. WSLH will continue to test CRAB isolates for the “Big 5” carbapenemase targets. However, routine PCR testing for OXA-23 and OXA-24/40 carbapenemases will be discontinued. Testing for those targets may still be requested through the DHS Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Program. Additional CDC guidance regarding CRAB is anticipated.



--- REMINDER FOR MEASLES TESTING AT WSLH ---

With the recent report of multiple cases of measles in Wisconsin by the state Department of Health (DHS), we would like to remind labs and providers that diagnostic measles testing, both [PCR](#) and [IgM serology](#), is available for suspect patients at WSLH fee-exempt. Submitting to WSLH provides a fast, local result and helps with statewide surveillance and response. As outlined in early June, pre-approval by DHS is no longer needed for measles testing. Immune status testing (IgG serology) on healthy individuals is widely available and should be performed in-house or sent to a reference laboratory, not to WSLH. Please consult the recent [DHS Immediate Release](#) on measles for more details. As always, please continue to encourage others to participate in MMR vaccination strategies.

--- REMINDER OF WEST NILE VIRUS TESTING AT WSLH ---

Peak risk of West Nile virus infection in Wisconsin is occurring now through September. Although no human cases have been identified, there have been positives in non-humans in several counties throughout the state. The State Lab does offer an [arbovirus IgM antibody test for West Nile virus](#) (and other arboviruses) that may be available for fee-exemption upon DHS approval. Additionally, a recent [CDC HAN was released on August 11](#) discussing the increased risk of severe arboviral disease in patients receiving B cell specific antibody therapies, such as rituximab. Please be mindful about mosquito and tick bite prevention this season.

--- SEPTEMBER IS PUBLIC HEALTH LAB APPRECIATION MONTH ---

With Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month only a few weeks away, please remember to thank those that play a role in improving the health of our communities. We encourage you to follow the Association of Public Health Labs (APHL) on social media and use hashtags such as **#APHL** and **#ThanksPHLabs**. APHL also has some [fun and creative art contests](#) available to celebrate the month.



--- RECENT CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY WEBINARS OF INTEREST---

WCLN & ASM Press Events

**SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, and Other Respiratory
Viruses Update - 2026**

Allen Bateman, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

Director, Communicable Disease Div., WSLH

Erika Hanson, M.S.

Virology Lead, Communicable Disease Div., WSLH

**Foundational Training for the Entry-level
Clinical Microbiologist | Basic Skills Part III**

Erik Munson, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

Assistant Professor at Marquette University

WCLN At Large LabTAG Member

[October 2026 Registration Link](#)

[August 2026 Slides \(PDF\)](#)

To access a full listing of past WSLH recordings, visit the:

[WSLH Training and Events page](#)

To access a listing of 2026 ASM webinars and recordings, visit the:

[ASM Webinars page](#)