November 23, 2026

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WISCONSIN LABORATORY MESSAGE

The Wisconsin 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 at 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 & WCLN Resources

--- UPCOMING WSLH CDD HOLIDAY HOUR UPDATES ---

WSLH CDD will be closed on the following days in observance of legal holidays: Thursday, November 26, Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25, Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 1. Please retain specimens in your laboratory in temperature-controlled environments prior to shipping.

	Wednesday (November 25)	Thursday (Thanksgiving)	Friday (November 27)	Saturday (November 28)
Specimen Receiving	**6:00AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**6:00AM – 4:30PM**	**8:00AM – 12:00PM**
Customer Service	**7:45AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**7:45AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**

	Wednesday (December 23)	Thursday (Christmas Eve)	Friday (Christmas Day)	Saturday (December 26)
Specimen Receiving	**6:00AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**	**8:00AM-12:00PM**
Customer Service	**7:45AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**

	Wednesday (December 30)	Thursday (New Year's Eve)	Friday (New Year's Day)	Saturday (January 2)
Specimen Receiving	**6:00AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**	**8:00AM-12:00PM**
Customer Service	**7:45AM – 4:30PM**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**

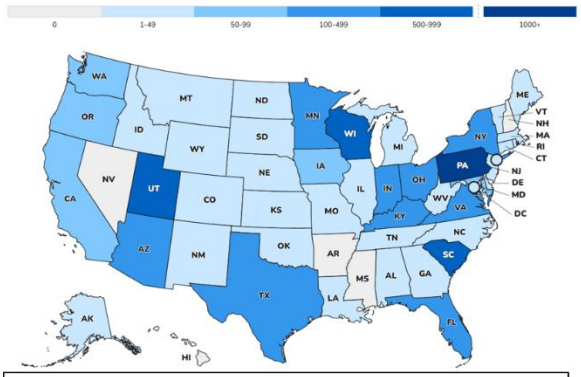
--- THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS IN THE WCLN ---

Being that it is the "Season of Thanksgiving", the WSLH would like to make sure that all our dedicated partners within the WCLN know how thankful we are for your efforts in sending surveillance isolates and specimens, as well as non-notifiable data reporting through our old and new portals this past year. It is because of your efforts that Wisconsin is a nationwide leader in outbreak surveillance. The WCLN is a very valuable network that serves as a model for other states. Keep up the amazing work!



--- UNITED STATES LOSES MEASLES ELIMINATION STATUS ---

As of November 23, there have been over 832 cases of measles in Wisconsin across 24 counties in 2026. This concerning milestone follows the November 17th announcement from the Pan American Health Organization that the United States has officially lost its measles elimination status. Approximately 11% of reported cases have required hospitalization, with the heaviest concentrations of hospitalizations encompassing children under 5 years of age and adults over 20 years.



Map of measles cases among United States residents. Data from CDC and up to date as of November 12.

Updated statewide measles data is available on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Dashboard.

We would like to remind labs and providers that diagnostic measles testing, both PCR and IgM serology, is available at WSLH at no cost for suspect patients. Submission to WSLH provides rapid local testing, supports statewide surveillance efforts, and enhances public heath response activities. Pre-approval by DHS is not needed for testing; however, local public health agencies or DHS should be notified immediately when measles is suspected, even before lab results are available.

- Laboratories performing measles PCR testing are encouraged to submit all positive specimens to WSLH for surveillance purposes.
- Assessment of immune status (measles IgG serology) for healthy individuals is widely available through clinical laboratories and reference laboratories. WSLH also offers IgG serology testing on a fee-for-service basis.

As always, we encourage our laboratory and healthcare partners to support and promote MMR vaccination efforts, which remain the most effective strategy for preventing measles transmission. Achieving and maintaining vaccination coverage of at least 95% is critical to preventing outbreaks and protecting vulnerable populations.

To assist with patient and community education, DHS has developed an educational video resource on measles and vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe and 97% effective after two doses. Please share this important tool as a conversation starter with individuals in your community.

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--- NEW DHS HAN ON MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT SHIGELLA ISSUED ---

On November 11, DHS issued a HAN entitled: Multi-drug Resistant Shigellosis Cases in Wisconsin. As outlined in the alert, it is important that **all** *Shigella* isolates be submitted to WSLH for confirmation, culture, and antibiotic susceptibility testing. Testing is provided at no cost, and susceptibility results will be reported back to submitting laboratories. In addition, shipping is available at no charge when isolates are submitted using the WSLH courier service. Specimen submission supplies and requisition forms are available from WSLH; please contact our clinical supplies team at (800) 862-1088 or by email. Submission of Shigella isolates plays a critical role in Wisconsin's public health surveillance efforts by monitoring antimicrobial resistance trends and providing data that help inform patient care and public health response activities.

--- LABTAG RECRUITMENT FOR REGION 1 ---

We are starting the recruitment process for a new WCLN Laboratory Technical Advisory Group (LabTAG) representative from Region 1 of the state. This opportunity follows the completion of Alyssa Brenner's service on LabTAG. We sincerely thank her for her time, energy, and commitment since 2021. Her contributions have been invaluable in advancing the mission of the WCLN.

Eligible applicants must reside and work within one of the following counties in Northwest Wisconsin: *Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, Saint Croix, Sawyer,* or *Washburn*.

LabTAG is a respected and highly regarded advisory body of the WCLN that serves an important leadership role in laboratory science and elevates the voice of clinical labs across the state. Although voluntary, this role will put you on the cutting edge of statewide lab science dialogue where you can help influence priorities and decisions that will strengthen the health and education of individuals across the state.

If interested, please apply as soon as possible using this Qualtrics Survey or QR Code (shown on the left). If you have questions and would like more information about the open seat, please contact the WCLN Coordinator.

--- PETER A. SHULT CLINICAL LABORATORIAN AWARD NOMINATION ---

It is that wonderful time of year where you can, once again, formally acknowledge and honor outstanding clinical laboratory professionals for their work and talents in your facility! Each year the Peter A. Shult Award is awarded to a nominated laboratorian that has demonstrated exemplary work in their clinical lab, their healthcare system, the medical lab science field, and/or the WCLN. Eligible candidates need to work (or have worked) in a Wisconsin clinical laboratory and have shown strong dedication and support to WCLN activities. Self-nominations are not eligible.

We encourage you to nominate a candidate using this brief Qualtrics Survey or QR Code (shown on the right). **The deadline for submission is Friday, February 12, 2027.** All entries will be reviewed by LabTAG members and a recipient will be presented with an award at our Spring Technical Conference in April. This is a fantastic way to recognize and celebrate truly inspiring laboratory work being performed by your colleagues!

--- LAUNCHING THE ONLINE WCLN BULLETIN BOARD ---

As a way to continue to move communications forward across the WCLN and to foster new connections, as WCLN Coordinator, I have designed a Padlet WCLN Bulletin Board for laboratorians and public health individuals to post and comment on.

Just like you might tack notes to a bulletin board that hangs in a breakroom with updates and fun nuggets of work-related information, this online bulletin board accomplishes the same goal. It captures the pulse of the network and allows real time interactions, including posting of comments, reactions, videos, PDFs, webpage links, and polls. As WCLN Coordinator, I will moderate the communication as needed.

At this time, you have the option to create an account and log in as a user. Users that sign up for a free account can set notifications (by email or app) when new posts to the Bulletin Board are made. Non-WCLN related material and inappropriate posts will be deleted immediately. This safe space is designed as an additional venue for clinical lab and public health individuals to collaborate, problem solve, educate, and support each other. It is also a place to highlight and showcase accomplishments within the WCLN. Do not be bashful, please post and comment as a way to continue to build up our network and community. You can access and bookmark the official WCLN Bulletin Board here or via the QR Code (shown on the left).

--- MYCOBACTERIOLOGY LAB NETWORK MEETING WAS A BIG SUCCESS ---

Earlier this month, the annual Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network (WMLN) meeting was held in Madison. More than 50 attendees from Mycobacteriology labs across the state participated in person to engage with subject matter experts, chart the current trajectory of the TB field in WI, and discuss cutting edge diagnostics including whole-genome sequencing. It was a very robust and lively event. If you have ideas for future meetings, please reach out to WMLN Coordinator Nate Simon.

--- CAT A AND B PACKAGING AND SHIPPING WORKSHOPS COMING IN 2027 ---

Due to widespread demand and need, the WSLH CDD is excited to announce that we will be providing free statewide educational workshops on *Packaging and Shipping Category A and B Infectious Substances* this upcoming Spring/Summer 2027. WSLH has not delivered in-person Category B specific workshops since 2024. Therefore, we anticipate this to be a very popular event. More details will be available in the coming months; however, please anticipate an early-to-mid December survey for the WCLN and State, Local, and Tribal Health Departments to participate in. The results from this survey will help us plan both specific content and location venues for the workshops. Once you receive the survey by email, please fill it out in a timely manner as there will be limited seats and no virtual or recorded options.



--- HAI PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATES ---

The Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program is seeking 1-2 clinical laboratory microbiologists from around the state to serve on the HAI Advisory Committee. This committee meets

virtually on a quarterly basis. The three major objectives of the committee include: 1) providing practical experience and knowledge to the WI HAI Prevention Program in order to prioritize prevention and surveillance activities, 2) promoting and helping coordinate those statewide activities and 3) engaging in efforts to support the sustainability of those activities. If you feel inspired to join this advisory team, please email the WCLN Coordinator.

As a reminder, quarterly, open forum, office hours regarding multidrug resistant organisms (MDROs) are available and hosted by HAI Prevention Program experts for laboratorians, health care professionals, and public health partners that seek ways to connect and learn more about MDROs and related topics. You can register to attend live sessions here; the next Q&A is at 1:00PM on 12/9.

--- APHL BIOTHREAT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ROLLING OUT IN 2027 ---

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) recently announced that they are ahead of schedule in releasing official Sentinel Clinical Laboratory Biothreat Agent Online Training Courses! These training modules are replacing the CDC Lab ID resources that were recently retired in July 2026. The *B. anthracis* module is available here. *Burkholderia* species modules are expected to be released in early January 2027. *Brucella* spp., *F. tularensis*, and *Y. pestis* will be released in February, April, and May, respectively. You must sign in to the APHL Learning Center and enroll in the course(s) in order to access the P.A.C.E.-eligible content.

--- WCLN, ASM PRESS, & APHL EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES ---

To access previous WSLH CDD/WCLN webinar recordings, please visit:

WSLH Training and Events page

To access 2026 ASM webinar recordings, please visit:

ASM Webinars page

Upcoming Topics of Significant Laboratory Relevance:

December 4 & 15: Diagnostic stewardship series

December 9: Supporting LIS and EMR conversions

To access and enroll in December 2026 APHL webinars, please visit:

APHL Webinars page

Upcoming Topics of Significant Laboratory Relevance:

December 1: Transitioning from 7500 to QuantStudio platforms

December 10: Improving detection and recovery of STEC

December 15: Trichophyton mentagrophytes genotype VII (TMVII) lab ID

December 16: Antifungal susceptibility testing of molds