



**AGENTS OF BIOTERRORISM:  
TRAINING FOR SENTINEL CLINICAL LABORATORIES**  
Sponsored by  
**San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory (SBC PHL)**  
and  
**California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors**  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023



### Location

San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory  
150 East Holt Blvd.  
Ontario, CA 91761

### Description

This one-day, intermediate level, hands-on workshop will provide an overview of the sentinel clinical laboratory's role in the presumptive identification of the primary agents of bioterrorism. Laboratory exercises will demonstrate the culture, staining and biochemical characteristics of *Bacillus*, *Burkholderia*, *Yersinia*, *Brucella*, and *Francisella* species. Participants will be instructed on how to safely handle suspect organisms and toxins in clinical isolates and cultures. Steps to notify and submit samples to the San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory will be covered. Information regarding public health management and emergency response efforts will also be discussed.

### Faculty

- **Linda Ward, MA**, Laboratory Director, SBC PHL
- **Jessica d. Valdez, PhD, TS(ABB)**, Laboratory Supervisor, LRN training coordinator, SBC PHL
- **Sean Hunter Geiger, MS, M(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, Principal Investigator, Microbiologist, SBC PHL
- **Jennifer Cano-Garcia, MPH**, Epidemiologist, SBC CDS
- **Ashley Ward, MPH**, Emergency Services Supervisor, SBC PRP
- **Terri Jackson, LRN-C** Outreach and Training/Chemical Threat Coordinator, CDPH
- **Sharon Wang, DO, MSHPE**, Assistant Health Officer, SBC DPH

### Agenda (Times are Approximate)

8:00-8:20 a.m.	Registration, Introductions and Pre-test
8:20-8:50 a.m.	San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory (SBCPHL) Orientation
8:50-9:50 a.m.	Public Health Surveillance, Investigation and Disease Trends
9:50-10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Public Health Emergency Management, Planning and Preparedness Efforts
11 a.m.-12 p.m.	LRN-C
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Packaging and Shipping Agents of Bioterrorism – Exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (Anthrax)</li><li>• <i>Brucella</i> species (Brucellosis)</li><li>• <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (Tularemia)</li><li>• <i>Yersinia pestis</i> (Plague)</li><li>• <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> and <i>psuedomallei</i> (Glanders and Melioidosis)</li></ul>
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Positive Agent ID: Completing CDC Form 4 Department of Public Health and Hospital Partnership
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Concluding Remarks, Post-test and Evaluation

### Audience

This program is designed for microbiologists with bench-level clinical microbiology experience. **Only persons with experience working in the laboratory setting will be permitted to attend.**

### Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, the participants will be able to:

- Discuss the Laboratory Response Network and the role of the Public Health Laboratory.
- Discuss the role of the clinical laboratorian in the presumptive identification of organisms and toxins targeted for use in bioterrorism.
- Identify culture, staining and biochemical characteristics of the primary agents likely to be involved in a bioterrorist event including *Bacillus anthracis*, *Brucella* spp., *Burkholderia* spp., *Francisella tularensis*, and *Yersinia pestis*.
- Outline the process for contacting appropriate personnel and transporting samples suspected of containing any of the select agents mentioned as well as Ricin toxin, or emerging diseases to the County of San Bernardino Public Health Laboratory.
- Describe emergency management as it relates to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health planning and preparedness efforts.
- Define the role of the laboratory in various public health emergency responses.
- Understand public health surveillance systems including epidemiological surveillance, syndromic surveillance, and virological surveillance.
- Discuss public health investigations, including defining exposed population(s), providing prophylaxis to exposed persons, and identifying the source.
- Describe current bioterrorism disease trends.
- Discuss the role of Chemical Terrorism Preparedness and the Chemical Laboratory Response Network (LRN-C).
- Discuss the partnership of Public Health with Hospital laboratories.

### Continuing Education

The California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD) is approved as a provider of continuing education units by State of California. Participants who successfully complete this program will be awarded 6.5 contact hours. (CAPHLD Course #230405)

### Registration

[https://dphsbccounty.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7R5Ltl8SAraX4MK](https://dphsbccounty.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7R5Ltl8SAraX4MK)

- Fee: **NO CHARGE**
- Registration deadline: March 24, 2023
- Enroll early! Space is limited to 10 participants. Please limit registration to one person per facility.
- Only persons with experience working in the laboratory setting will be permitted to attend.



**Questions:** Please e-mail [jessica.valdez@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:jessica.valdez@dph.sbcounty.gov)