



**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**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025**



#### 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 to recognize, rule out, and refer potential bioterrorist agents. Laboratory exercises will demonstrate the culture, staining, and biochemical characteristics of *Bacillus*, *Burkholderia*, *Yersinia*, *Brucella*, and *Francisella* species. The workshop will cover safe handling of suspect organisms and toxins, as well as procedures for notifying and submitting samples to the San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory. Additionally, topics such as laboratory surge capacity and continuity of operations will be discussed.

#### Faculty

- **Jessica d. Valdez, PhD, HCLD**, Laboratory Director, SBC PHL
- **Norma Zamora, PhD**, Principal Investigator, LRN Coordinator, Public Health Microbiologist, SBC PHL
- **Jocelyn Campbell, MPH**, Epidemiologist, SBC CDS
- **David Yleah, MPH, CHA**, Medical Emergency Planning Specialist, SBC PRP
- **Krista Lam**, WMD Coordinator, Critical Incident Response FBI
- **Terri Jackson**, LRN-C Outreach and Training/Chemical Threat Coordinator, CDPH
- **Sharon Wang, DO, MSHPE**, Health Officer, SBC DPH

#### Agenda (Times are Approximate)

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00-8:15 a.m.        | Registration, Introductions and Pre-test  |
| 8:15-8:45 a.m.        | San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory (SBC PHL) Orientation  |
| 8:45-9:15 a.m.        | Biosafety/Biosecurity   |
| 9:15-9:45 a.m.        | Public Health Surveillance, Investigation and Disease Trends  |
| 9:45-10:00 a.m.       | Break   |
| 10:00-10:30 a.m.      | Public Health Emergency Management, Planning and Preparedness Efforts   |
| 10:30-11:00 a.m.      | FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction   |
| 11:00-11:30 a.m.      | LRN-C   |
| 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Clinical Presentation for Select Agents   |
| 12:00-12:30 p.m.      | Packaging and Shipping/Chain of Custody   |
| 12:30-1:30 p.m.       | Lunch   |
| 1:30-4:00p.m.         | 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>pseudomallei</i> (Glanders and Melioidosis)</li></ul> |
| 4:00-4:15 p.m.        | Concluding Remarks, Post-test and Evaluation  |

#### Audience

This program is designed for laboratorians with bench-level clinical microbiology experience. **Only people 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 public health investigations, by identifying exposed populations, administering prophylaxis to affected individuals, and determining the source of exposure.
- Understand public health surveillance systems including epidemiological, syndromic, and virological surveillance.
- Describe current bioterrorism disease trends.
- 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.
- Explain the role of the FBI and its critical incidence response on a bioterrorism attack.
- Discuss the role of Chemical Terrorism Preparedness and the Chemical Laboratory Response Network (LRN-C).
- 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, Ricin toxin, or emerging diseases to the San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory.

#### Continuing Education

The California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD) is an approved provider of continuing education units by the State of California. Participants who successfully complete this program will be awarded 6.0 contact hours. (CAPHLD Course #250320)

#### Registration

[dphsbcounty.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7R5Lt18SAraX4MK](https://dphsbcounty.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7R5Lt18SAraX4MK)

- Fee: **NO CHARGE**
- Registration deadline: March 14, 2025
- Enroll early! Space is limited to 10 participants.
- Please limit registration to one person per facility.
- Attendance will be limited to individuals with prior experience working in a laboratory setting.



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