



Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL)

The Florida LABLINK



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Team Member Spotlight

Meet Jillien Durand

The New Miami Biological Terrorism (BT) Coordinator

Jillien was born and raised in Miami, FL. She received a bachelor's degree from Miami Dade College in Biological Sciences and is currently pursuing a master's degree in professional forensic science from Florida International University.

Her career with the Florida Department of Health began in October of 2021 in the HIV Section as a Medical Laboratory Scientist I. In October 2022, she transferred to the Bioterrorism Section as a Medical Laboratory Scientist III to serve as one of Miami's BT Coordinators.



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CDC
2002 Laura Rose
Under a high magnification of 12,483X, this scanning electron micrograph (SEM) depicted spores from the Sterne strain of *Bacillus anthracis*.

Stay in the Know

Sign up for the Health Alert Network

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is a program under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement. It is the Centers for Disease Control primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.

The HAN has four message types:

- **Health Alert:** Provides vital, time-sensitive information for a specific incident or situation; warrants immediate action or attention by health officials, laboratorians, clinicians, and members of the public; and conveys the highest level of importance.
- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; contains recommendations or actionable items to be performed by public health officials, laboratorians, and/or clinicians; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- **Info Service:** Provides general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

You can sign up to receive HAN Alerts when a new HAN is added to the system by using the following steps:

1. Go to the [CDC – Quick Subscribe](#) page.
2. Enter your email address and click Register.

Once you complete these steps, you will receive HAN alerts by email when new HANs are distributed.

Content source: [Center for Preparedness and Response \(CPR\)](#)

Don't forget!

Sign up for Div. 6.2 Infectious Substances Packaging and Shipping Certification Course at www.Train/florida

The following classes still have seats available:

April 17

DOH–Orange

April 19

DOH BPHL Jacksonville

May 5

DOH–Charlotte

June 7

City of Doral Police Training and Community Center

June 9

DOH–Palm Beach

July 18

Betty Easley Center

July 19

DOH–Okaloosa

July 31

DOH–Orange

August 25

DOH–Marion

September 12

DOH–Broward

September 13

Indian River EOC

October 9

DOH BPHL Tampa

October 10

DOH–Sarasota

November 16

DOH BPHL Jacksonville

Bacillus anthracis

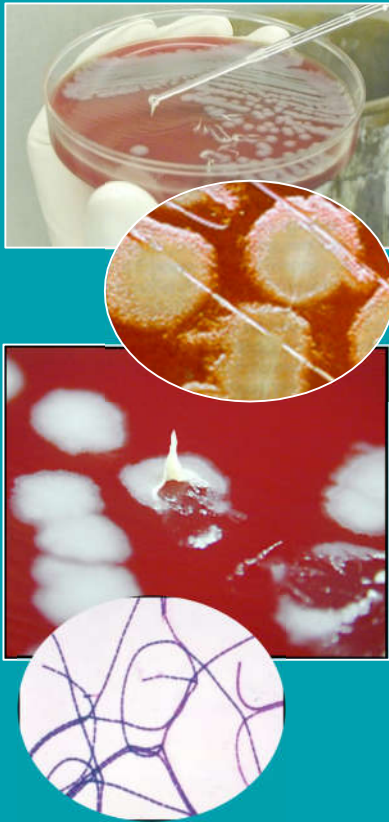
What is *Bacillus anthracis*? It is a bacteria found on the Tier 1 select agent list. It causes the disease known as anthrax in both humans and animals.

How do people get infected with anthrax? Anthrax is *not* contagious. *B. anthracis* is naturally occurring in soil around the globe. Infections are typically due to contact with infected animals or animal products. Fortunately, anthrax is rare in the U.S.

Have there been anthrax cases in Florida? Yes. In the late 1920s, anthrax was discovered in a dairy herd in Miami. In 1935, cattle imported from Missouri were diagnosed in North Florida. Then, in 1951 an outbreak in cattle in Brevard County resulted in four human cases. Fortunately, anthrax cases in the Florida populace since the 1950s have been rare and travel related.

Has anthrax ever been used as a biological weapon? Yes, anthrax has a long history of being used as weapon dating back to World War I. Following the war, several countries experimented with anthrax as part of their biological weapons programs. However, in 1972 more than 100 nations signed a treaty to prohibit the use of biological and toxic weapons.

Has anthrax ever been used as a biological weapon in the U.S.? Unfortunately, yes. In 2001, over 10,000 people were considered at risk after anthrax was mailed to several U.S. Senators' offices and several news agencies. Forty-three people tested positive. Twenty-two people got sick and five of them died. The attack is now referred to as Amerithrax. Information about this incident can be found on the CDC's website (cdc.gov/anthrax) and the FBI's website (fbi.gov/history).



Rule Out

- Large Gram-positive rods
- Ground glass appearance
- No growth on MAC (or EMB)
- Non-hemolytic on BAP
- Catalase positive
- Motility variable*

**B. anthracis* strains are non-motile, but *B. cereus biovar anthracis* strains are motile

Contributing to a healthier Florida one test at a time

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Unless otherwise indicated, all photography is for illustrative purposes only and all persons depicted are models.

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