



Bureau of Public Health Laboratories Jacksonville - Miami - Tampa

Testing for Viruses

The Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) performs tests for the detection of respiratory viruses such as Influenza; mosquito-transmitted viruses such as Zika, West Nile, and Dengue viruses; foodborne viruses such as Norovirus; emerging viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 and for many other viruses of public health significance. The BPHL Virology laboratories in Tampa, Jacksonville and Miami provide diagnostic testing, confirmatory testing, surveillance testing and have internal surge capacity for molecular and serological (antibody) testing in outbreak and pandemic events. Technologies used include the newest molecular assays as well as culture and serologic assays.

Highlights

- World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratory for influenza virus strain surveillance
- Detect respiratory viruses that cause severe illnesses
- Detect viruses that cause foodborne illness including Norovirus
- Detect mosquito-borne viruses including Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika
- Sentinel chicken surveillance program tests for West Nile, St. Louis and eastern equine encephalitis viruses
- Perform serologic and molecular testing for Vaccine preventable diseases including Measles, mumps and rubella
- Perform testing for tick-borne disease Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Ehrlichiosis



Workload

- BPHL performed 111,471 clinical virology assays; 104,629 for influenza and other respiratory viruses; 2,333 for vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, mumps and chicken pox; 885 for mosquito transmitted viruses; 1,017 or enteric viruses and 2,607 for miscellaneous agents such as herpes, tick-borne diseases and toxoplasmosis in 2021
- Generated more than 1.3 million results for SARS-CoV-2 during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Performed 98,100 avian, mammal, and mosquito virology assays for the detection and surveillance of mosquito-transmitted viruses

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention of licensed, technical staff
- Ability to rapidly increase testing capacity for emerging diseases with limited approved automation

**Contributing to a Healthier Florida
One Test at a Time**