



Bureau of Public Health Laboratories Jacksonville - Miami - Pensacola - Tampa

Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing

According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention¹, there are almost 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States each year. Almost half of these infections occur in 15-24 year olds. Many people that have an STD do not know they are infected because there are often no symptoms. There are significant costs associated with STDs, including direct medical costs, which are estimated to be over \$16 billion a year. But the costs of STDs are not only financial. When left untreated, STDs can lead to long term complications including pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and cancer. Diagnosing and treating patients infected with STDs are crucial to controlling the spread of these communicable diseases. A core function of state public health laboratories is disease prevention, control and surveillance². To fulfill this mission, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) performs a variety of screening tests for STDs.

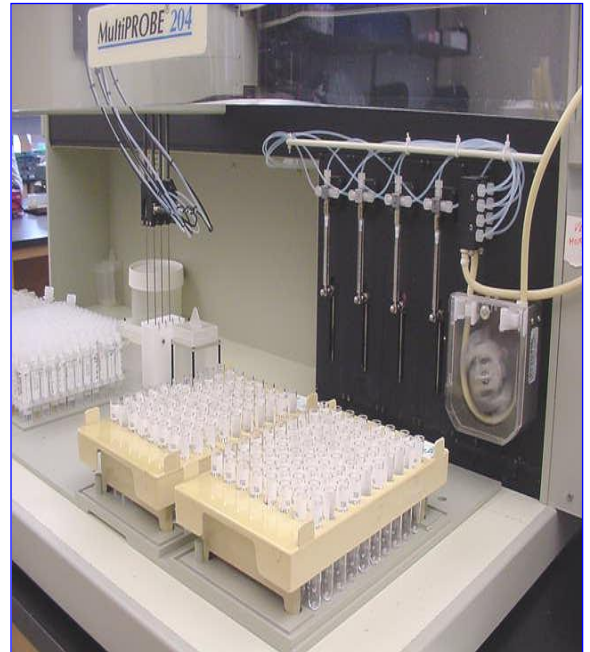
Highlights/specialties

The Bureau of Public Health Laboratories conducts screening tests for the following STDs:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Hepatitis B
- Herpes
- HIV
- Syphilis

Positive STD results are reported electronically to the STD Program Office for contact investigation and follow up.

Results for most tests³ are sent electronically to the provider and STD program office the same day the samples are received in the laboratory.



In Fiscal Year 2013/14 the BPHL performed over 439,000 tests for STDs.

Most of the STD tests offered at the BPHL can be performed on non-genital samples which means that many more people can be screened because samples can be collected in non-clinical settings such as outreach clinics and community based health centers.

¹ www.cdc.gov

² Core Functions and Capabilities of State Public Health Laboratories. *MMWR Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report* 2002 Sep 20; 51(RR14):1-8

³ HIV screening test results are not currently reported electronically