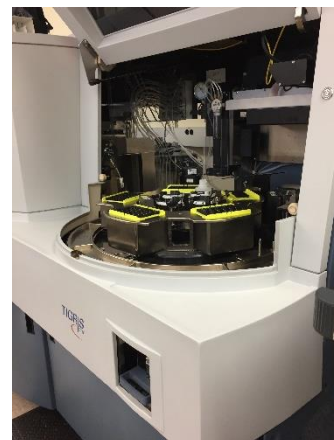




Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) Jacksonville - Miami - Tampa

Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing

According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2016, there are 20 million new sexually transmitted infections every year in the United States¹. Almost half of these sexually transmitted infections occur in young people (those 15-24 years old)¹. Many people that have a STD do not know they are infected because there are often no symptoms². There are significant costs associated with STDs, including direct medical costs, which are estimated to be over \$16 billion a year¹. 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 cancer¹. 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 surveillance³. 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 A, B, and C
- Herpes
- HIV
- Syphilis



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

Results for most tests⁴ are sent electronically to the provider and STD program office the same day the samples are received in the laboratory.

In Fiscal Year 2017/2018 the BPHL performed over 390,000 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 or community based health centers.

1. CDC 2016 STD Surveillance Report (https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/CDC_2016_STDS_Report_for508WebSep21_2017_1644.pdf)

2. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/life-stages-populations/stdfact-teens.htm>

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

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