Did you know...Florida’s Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

...provides information to over 20 Federal and State Agencies, 67 Florida County Health Departments, 500 licensed clinical laboratories, 450 certified environmental laboratories and to the visitors and citizens of Florida?

Our dedicated employees perform newborn screening on all babies born in Florida, check water samples for chemical and biological contaminants, and test clinical samples for viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites that can cause disease in humans. Our laboratories have the capabilities to: check for more than 150 chemicals in clinical specimens in case of a terrorist attack; identify anthrax, smallpox, and other agents in a bioterrorism event; diagnose rabies, AIDS, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and more; provide supporting data for the cause of food or water-borne outbreaks. Florida’s public health laboratories are in the forefront to detect drug resistant organisms such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and new and emerging pathogens including Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Chikungunya, Zika, SARS-CoV-2 and Ebola. The laboratory performs DNA fingerprinting on patient and food samples to determine if cases are related, as well as outbreak samples such as hepatitis A and SARS-CoV-2. In 2020, Florida’s Bureau of Public Health Laboratories produced over three million results.

Our Partners and the Agencies We Serve...

Department of Health (DOH) County Health Departments
DOH Division of Children’s Medical Services
DOH Division of Disease Control & Health Protection
   Bureau of Epidemiology
   Bureau of Communicable Diseases
   HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Prevention Program
   Immunization Program
   STD Program
   Tuberculosis Program
Bureau of Environmental Health
DOH Division of Emergency Preparedness & Community Support
   Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight
DOH Division of Community Health Promotion
Bureau of Family Health Services
DOH Office of Medical Marijuana Use
Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida National Guard Civil Support Teams
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
   Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
   U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
   Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
   U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
   U.S. Department of Homeland Security
   U.S. Postal Service
World Health Organization (WHO)

Noteworthy Accomplishments ...

- Implemented testing for SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, Zika, Ebola, MERS, Chikungunya and the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic
- Added X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy (XALD), 2018, Lysosomal Storage Disorders (Pompe), 2020 and Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), 2020, to the Newborn Screening Panel
- Confirmed the index case during the Anthrax Terrorist Attack, October 2001
- A Collaborating Laboratory for the WHO/CDC Influenza Strain Surveillance Network
- The Tuberculosis Laboratory is recognized as a national model and was the US CDC TB elimination champion for 2021
- Identified the first ever reported case of rabies in a bat in the United States
- Increased next generation sequencing capability by 8000% in four years

Our Locations...

Jacksonville Laboratory (904) 791-1500
Miami Laboratory (305) 324-2432
Tallahassee Administration (850) 245-4517
Tampa Laboratory (813) 233-2203

Our Name ... Bureau of Public Health Laboratories