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**Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL)**

*The Florida* **LABLINK**



**Training Opportunities**

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*Can you spot the safety risk?*

**Answer on page 3**

**Packaging and Shipping**

*Another year of Division 6.2 training draws to a close*

The BPHL annually sponsors, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement Grant for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Division 6.2 Packaging and Shipping Training. This required training is open to personnel every two years to maintain certification for packaging and shipping of infectious substances and diagnostic specimens.

Participants learn how to properly package and ship Category A and Category B infectious substances and other dangerous goods such as dry ice by air and ground in accordance with prescribed guidelines.

**This year we partnered with CargoPAK, Inc. to provide 20 webinar-based 49 CFR 172.704 compliant trainings for 543 attendees representing over 200 facilities!**

Do you have suggestions for future Division 6.2 trainings? Feedback is welcome!! Contact Rachel Clark at [Rachel.Clark@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Rachel.Clark@FLHealth.gov) or 813-233-2367.



## Biological Threat Preparedness

The BHPL is pleased to offer a Laboratory Response Network (LRN) sentinel laboratory training course at no cost to you. The training follows the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols for Suspected Biological Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases. We offer this training at your facility.



The training syllabus includes:

- An overview of the LRN
- Biosafety
- ASM rule out protocols
- BPHL (state reference lab) sample referral procedures
- The CDC Select Agent Program

This course takes approximately six hours and is designed for laboratorians; however, nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals may also benefit from the training.

**FREE!**

**5 CEUs for Florida clinical lab personnel!**

### Contact

**Rachel Clark**

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**813-233-2367**

# Laboratory Response Network

## Contact

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**813-233-2293**

**Michelle Latona**

[Michelle.Latona@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Michelle.Latona@FLHealth.gov)

**904-791-1525**



## Chemical Threat Preparedness

The Chemical Threat (CT) laboratory coordinators continue to reach out to the health and medical community by offering training for CT preparedness at hospitals and county health departments (CHDs). This training covers chemical terrorism awareness and the collection and shipping of clinical specimens after a chemical threat event. Hospital and CHD staff play an important role in the response to a chemical exposure event when clinical specimens are collected for analysis. This course lasts approximately one hour. For your convenience and to increase participation, this training can be presented at your facility. Training manuals and exercise materials will be provided.

This training is recommended for physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, emergency department personnel, phlebotomists, hospital and Department of Health laboratory personnel, and others who may collect clinical specimens.

Did you spot it?



## Contact

Leah Kloss

[Leah.Kloss@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Leah.Kloss@FLHealth.gov)

813-233-2278

# Biosafety Outreach

BPHL's biosafety outreach officer offers free, onsite training in biosafety risk assessment and laboratory biosafety for clinical laboratories.

BPHL has a collection of biosafety risk assessment and biosafety resources for Florida's public health laboratories and sentinel hospital clinical laboratories on the [FLHealth.gov](https://www.flhealth.gov) website. These resources include:

- References for Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Biosafety risk assessment
- Biological agent/toxin information
- Chemical hygiene information
- Exercises and drills

Contributing to a healthier Florida one test at a time

## Health Alert Notification

On June 30, 2021, the CDC issued CDCHAN-00444, "Multistate Investigation of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Meliodosis) in Three Patients: Kansas, Texas, and Minnesota—2021."

Please visit <https://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/> for more information.

**Florida** – In May of 2021, a sample, positive for *Burkholderia pseudomallei* was collected from a patient in South Florida. While endemic cases are not typical for Florida, travel-related cases do occur. **Please review the protocols for this Tier 1 select agent.** See page 2 for information regarding free training for laboratory personnel provided by the BPHL on *Burkholderia pseudomallei* as well as other potential biological threat agents.

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All photography is for illustrative purposes only and all persons depicted are models.

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# Bureau of Public Health Laboratories-Directory

Bureau Chief: Patty Lewandowski, MBA, MLS(ASCP), CPM  
850-245-4560 (Phone) 850-815-0035 (Cell)

After hours (24/7)	Bioterrorism Event			Chemical Threat Event
		<u>Jacksonville</u> 904-945-4415 904-637-9260	<u>Tampa</u> 813-459-4039	<u>Miami</u> 305-433-0442

**BHPL – Jacksonville**  
1217 Pearl Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
904-791-1500

**Director**  
Susanne Crowe, MHA  
904-791-1550  
905-318-8901 (Cell)

**Assistant Director**  
Vacant

**BHPL – Tampa**  
3602 Spectrum Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33612  
813-233-2203

**Director**  
Andrew Cannons, PhD  
813-233-2277  
813-956-8850 (Cell)

**Assistant Director**  
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813-233-2290  
813-455-4798 (Cell)

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Miami, FL 33125  
305-324-2432

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305-409-9925 (Cell)

**Assistant Director**  
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Bioterrorism Program			
Program Advisor		Mary Ritchie, PhD	904-791-1767 904-945-9437 (Cell)
Coordinators	Jacksonville	Phil Lee (Lead) George Churchwell Maria Pedrosa	904-791-1712 904-791-1781 904-791-1756 904-945-4415 (Cell) 904-637-9260 (Cell)
	Tampa	Lisa Tate Shan “Justin” Hubsmith	813-233-2323 813-233-2237 813-956-8853 (Cell) 813-455-9105 (Cell)
	Miami	Mario Bustosgiraldo James “Randy” Weiss	305-325-2550 305-325-2531 305-797-5882 (Cell)
Trainers	Tampa	Rachel Clark	813-233-2367 813-407-7173 (Cell)
	Jacksonville	Gregory “Dean” Lusk	904-791-1568 904-465-1164 (Cell)

Chemical Threat Program			
Chief of Chemistry		Bonita Taffe, PhD	904-791-1648 904-366-9684 (Cell)
Lab Administrator		Lylah Seaton	904-791-1569 904-252-4405 (Cell)
Senior Chemist		Vacant	904-791-1792 904-637-9286 (Cell)
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