




ODHL Laboratory Preparedness – Policy Statement

Purpose: This policy has been developed to ensure that the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL) is prepared to provide laboratory support for public health emergencies.

Principle: The State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan has tasked the ODHL to perform laboratory testing and confirmation of samples during public health emergencies. As a result, the ODHL must have systems in place to ensure that the laboratory will be able to maintain 24/7 operations to assist with testing or triaging of specimens received during public health emergency situations. Public health emergencies may include the receipt of biological, chemical and/or radiological specimens.

1. The ODHL will ensure 24/7 operations are available to respond to emergency situations by having trained supervisors and staff available for consultation as well as testing services.
2. The ODHL will maintain the appropriate accreditations, certifications and/or licensures necessary to ensure 24/7 preparedness to accept, test, and report results from specimens received during public health emergencies.
3. The ODHL will maintain the appropriate equipment, supplies, and staffing levels to ensure 24/7 preparedness to test or triage specimens received during public health emergencies.
4. If the ODHL is unable to accept, test, and report specimens internally in a 24/7 capacity, contracts, Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA)/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or mutual assistance agreements will be in place to ensure 24/7 preparedness during public health emergencies.

Signature Approval


Bureau Chief

2/13/2017
Date

Table of Effective Changes

Version	Effective Date	Superseded/Modified	Significant Change
2/10/2014	2/10/2014	v9/4/2013	Added ODH logo
4/8/2015	4/8/2015	v02/10/2014	Reformatted, Acronyms clarified
2/13/2015	2/13/2015	V04/08/2015	Reviewed for clarity and accuracy