



Alabama Sentinel Laboratory Training: Recognize, Rule Out, Refer

April 8-9, 2026

Alabama Department of Public Health – Bureau of Clinical Laboratories
204 Legends Court ~ Prattville, AL 36066

DESCRIPTION

This training focuses on the Sentinel Laboratory Protocols as issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Society for Microbiology. This hands-on course emphasizes methods for recognizing, ruling out or referring organisms listed as suspect agents by the CDC. Topics include biosafety level (BSL) designations for clinical laboratories, safety protocols while working with suspect agents, operation of a biological safety cabinet, and review of the procedures and protocols for presumptive identification of certain select agents one might encounter in the daily work of a hospital or reference laboratory. Laboratory exercises allow the participant to observe surrogate organisms, their colony morphology and Gram stain characteristics as well as perform tests to presumptively identify the organisms.

AUDIENCE

This workshop is designed for intermediate-level participants such as supervisors and bench personnel working in microbiology sections of Alabama's sentinel laboratories.

FACULTY

Alabama Department of Public Health

- Sarah Hardinger, M.Ag.
Trainer/Microbiologist Supervisor

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this training, the participant should:

- Explain the roles, both biological and chemical, of the sentinel laboratory within the Laboratory Response Network (LRN).
- Discuss safety procedures for working in a BSL-2 enhanced laboratory.
- Describe colony morphology, Gram stain characteristics, and testing results of certain suspect agents.
- Use appropriate media, stains, and procedures to presumptively identify certain suspect agents.
- Specify at what point to notify the LRN reference laboratory when a possible suspect agent is isolated in his/her facility.

REGISTRATION

Online: Click the appropriate Hyperlink below:

<https://adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?formID=9054>

SPECIAL NEEDS PARTICIPANTS

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations should notify Sarah Hardinger at 334.290.6186 prior to the date of training.

P.A.C.E.

The Alabama Department of Public Health Bureau of Clinical Laboratories is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® program. Participants successfully completing this training will be awarded 12 contact hours.