

Benchtop Biohazards

Recognize, Rule Out and Refer Wet Workshop

October 2, 2025, UNMC Campus, Omaha

October 9, 2025, MPCC Campus, North Platte



Description

This in-person wet workshop is designed to provide sentinel laboratorians with the knowledge to “Recognize, Rule Out and Refer” organisms that may be naturally occurring hazardous pathogens or agents of a bioterrorism event. It will provide an overview of the clinical laboratory role in the CDC’s LRN-B and the presumptive identification of these organisms. Through didactic lecture and hands on training, the workshop will outline the diagnostic procedures to identify these agents so that participants can recognize culture growth, Gram stain, and biochemical characteristics of each. The importance of strict safety protocols when handling suspected agents will be emphasized.

Target Audience

This intermediate-level, hands on laboratory wet workshop is designed for experienced clinical microbiologists who are responsible for recognizing potential hazardous special pathogens. One applicant per clinical microbiology laboratory will be accepted with a second considered on a space available basis.

Objectives

- Describe CDC’s LRN-B and its response to biological threats.
- Define the responsibility of the Sentinel Laboratory within the LRN-B.
- Recognize organisms commonly associated with LAI’s.
- Demonstrate use of the LRN bench guides for hazardous pathogens.
- Correlate Gram stain and colony morphologies with benchtop biochemical tests to rule out or refer potential hazardous organisms.

Continuing Education

The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.^(R) Program. This course is approved for 4.0 hours of P.A.C.E.^(R) credit. P.A.C.E.^(R) number: 560-002-25.

Application and Registration

Application deadline: September 12, 2025

- Application can be completed at each of the following links:
 - Omaha: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MN3S296>
 - North Platte: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKQ2KC5>
 - If you are unable to complete the application online, notify NPHL at (402) 559-9444 or email NPHLab@unmc.edu
- Due to limited space, application does not guarantee enrollment.
- All travel related expenses are the responsibility of the participant. Lunch will be provided.

Presenters

Ben Ayers, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
State Training Coordinator
Nebraska Public Health Laboratory

Becky Bonacci, MPH, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
Assistant State Training Coordinator
Nebraska Public Health Laboratory

Questions

Please contact NPHL at (402) 559-9444 or email at NPHLab@unmc.edu

Agenda

9:00	Registration
9:15	Lecture 1
10:00	Break
10:15	Lecture 2
11:15	Lunch
11:45	Lab Session 1
12:45	Break
1:00	Lab Session 2
2:00	Closing Thoughts