



# Interconnecting people for planning and preparedness

Teresa M. Wolfe, PhD, MLS(ASCP)  
Po'okela Solutions, LLC

# Disclaimer

Slide decks may contain presentation material not affiliated with CDC. Presentation content from external panelists may not necessarily reflect CDC's official position on the topic(s) covered.



# Interconnecting people for planning and preparedness

## Outline

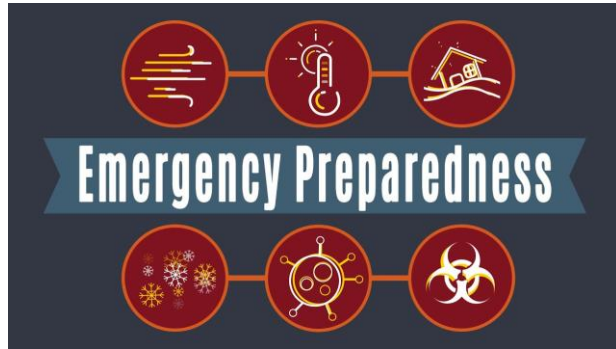
1. Objectives and Introduction
2. Why engagement is important
3. How to increase collaborations
4. How to maintain collaborations
5. Challenges
6. Action to take



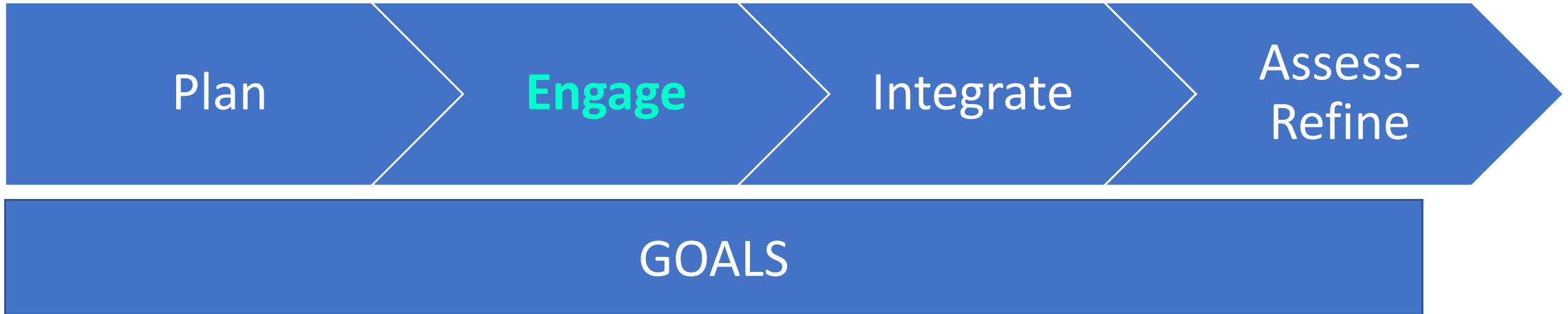
# Interconnecting people for planning and preparedness Objectives

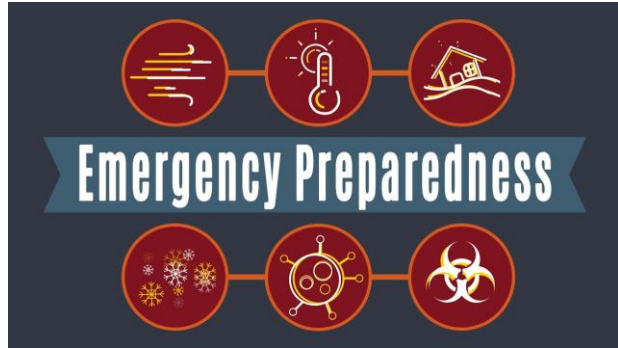
- Describe the importance of engagement between the clinical and public health laboratories during a strategic response
- Design methods for increasing interdisciplinary collaborations
- Identify techniques for maintaining collaborations between public health and clinical laboratories





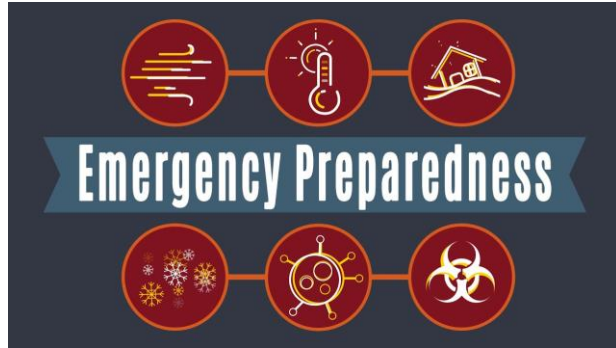
# Strategic Planning





# Strategic Planning





# Strategic Planning

Participate

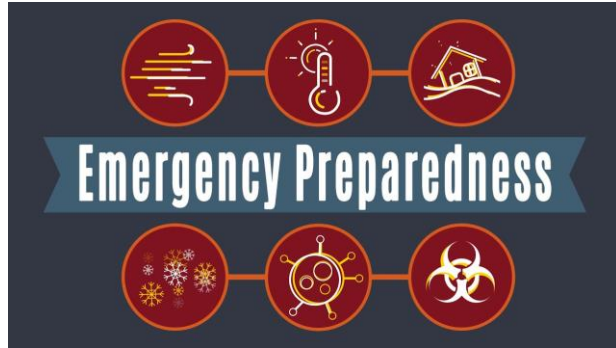


Associate

Connect

Collaborate





# Strategic Planning

Public  
Organizations

Federal  
Agencies



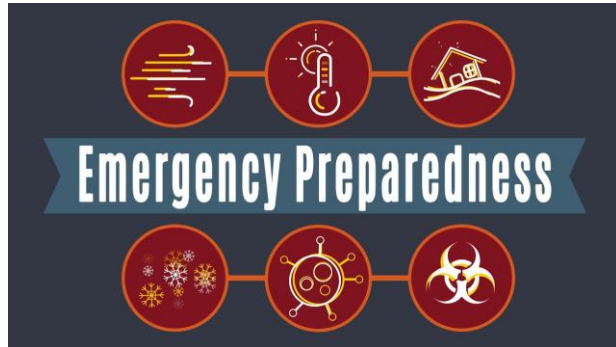
State  
Agencies

COLLABORATORS??

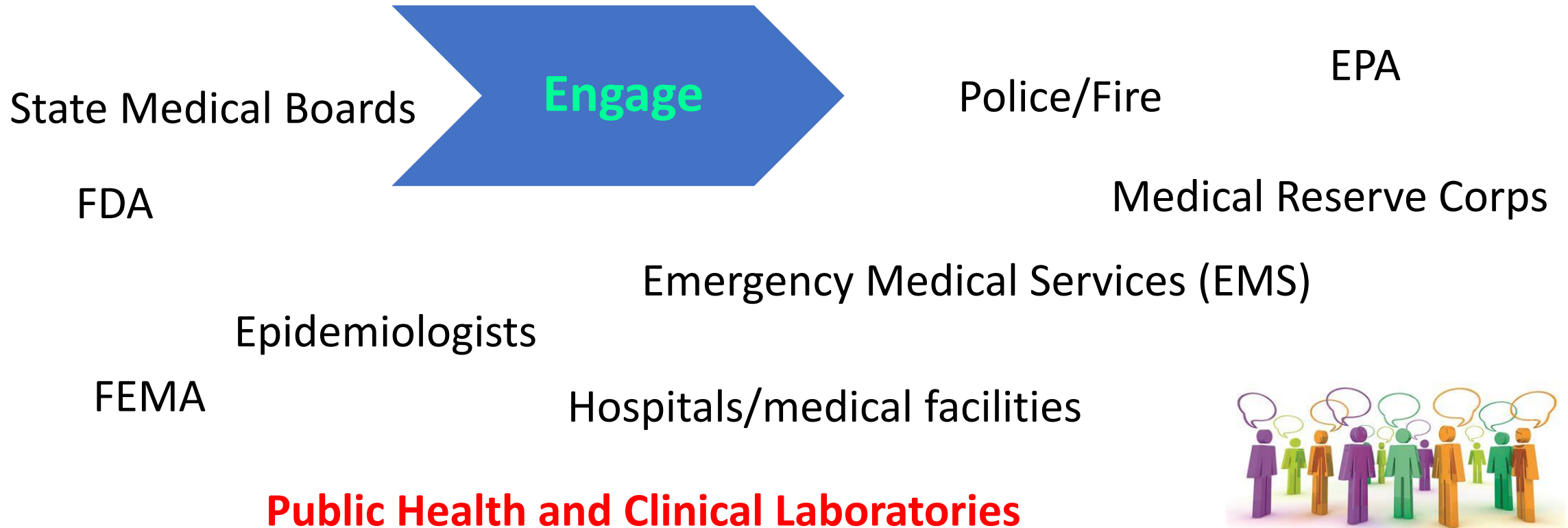
Private organizations

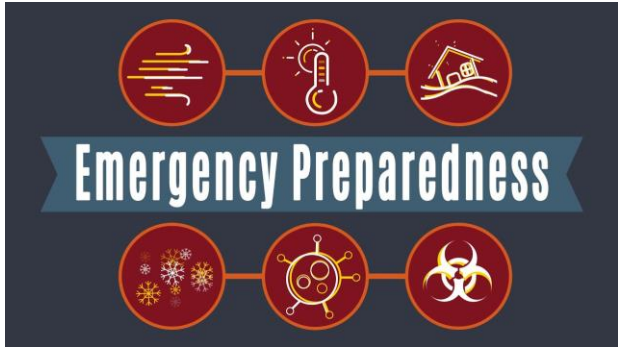




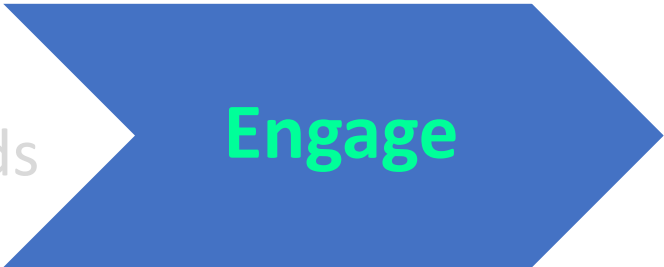


# Who are the COLLABORATORS??





# Strategic Planning



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Hospitals/medical facilities

State Medical Boards

Y

FDA

Medical Reserve Corps

Epidemiologists

**COLLABORATORS??**

EPA

Police/Fire

FEMA

**LABORATORY!**



# Who is doing all those COVID-19 tests? Why you should care about medical laboratory professionals

Published: December 14, 2020 8:31am EST • Updated: December 14, 2020 9:49am EST



A laboratory technician wearing full personal protective equipment handles live samples taken from people tested for the coronavirus. ANDREW MILLER/CORBIS OUTLINE

**KETPLACE**  
& Place Classifieds

# THE TENNESSEAN

Sports Counties Business Music Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals 78°F

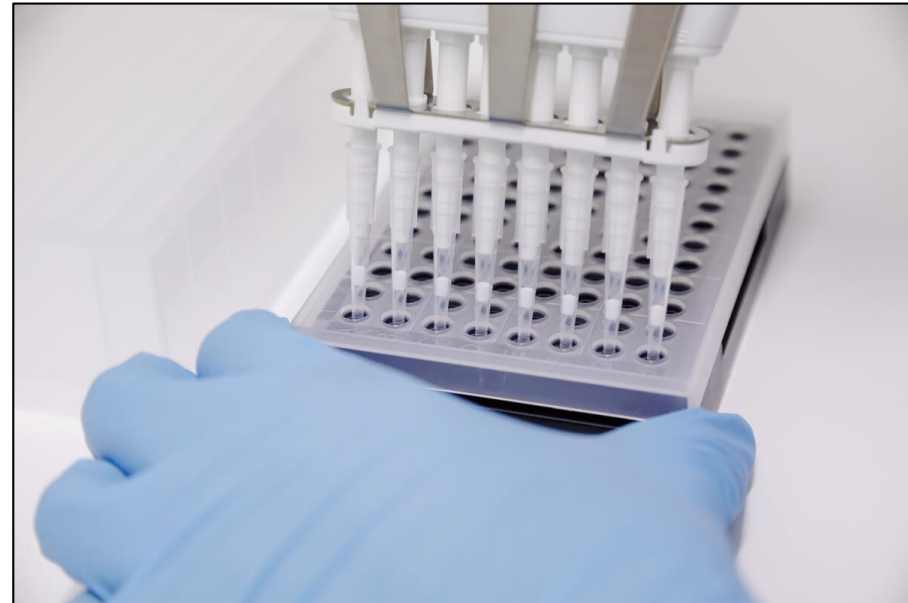
**OPINION** This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.

## Laboratory professionals: the hidden profession | Opinion

*The medical laboratory is often considered a hidden profession, but it is estimated that 70% of information used to help patients comes from the lab.*

We're always your experience you think.

## L.A. County reports first suspected monkeypox case

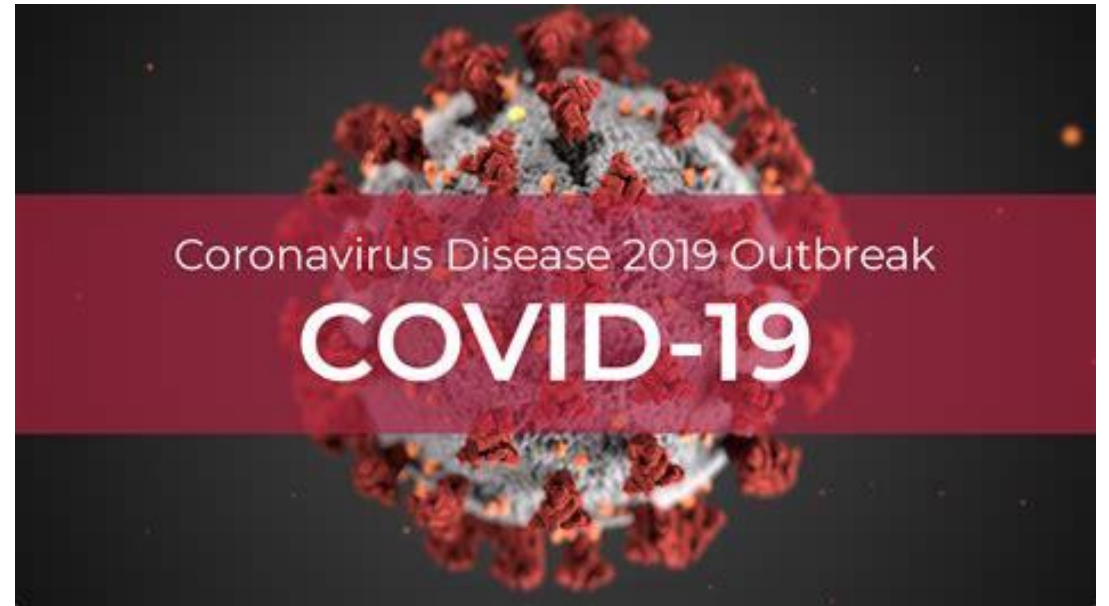


A nurse prepares materials for monkeypox testing....

# Clinical Laboratory Consortium Coordinator



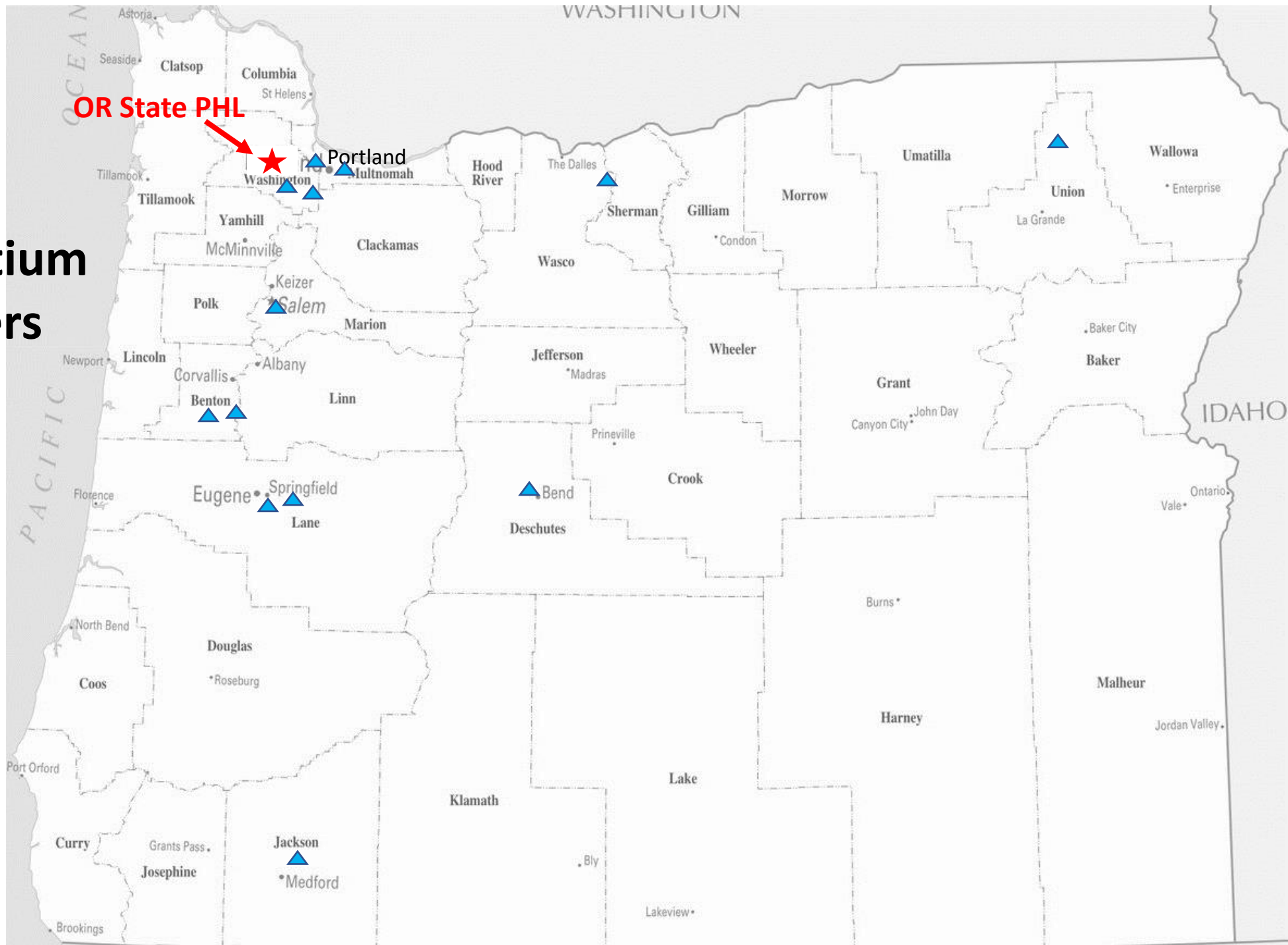
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory





# Oct 2020 Consortium Members

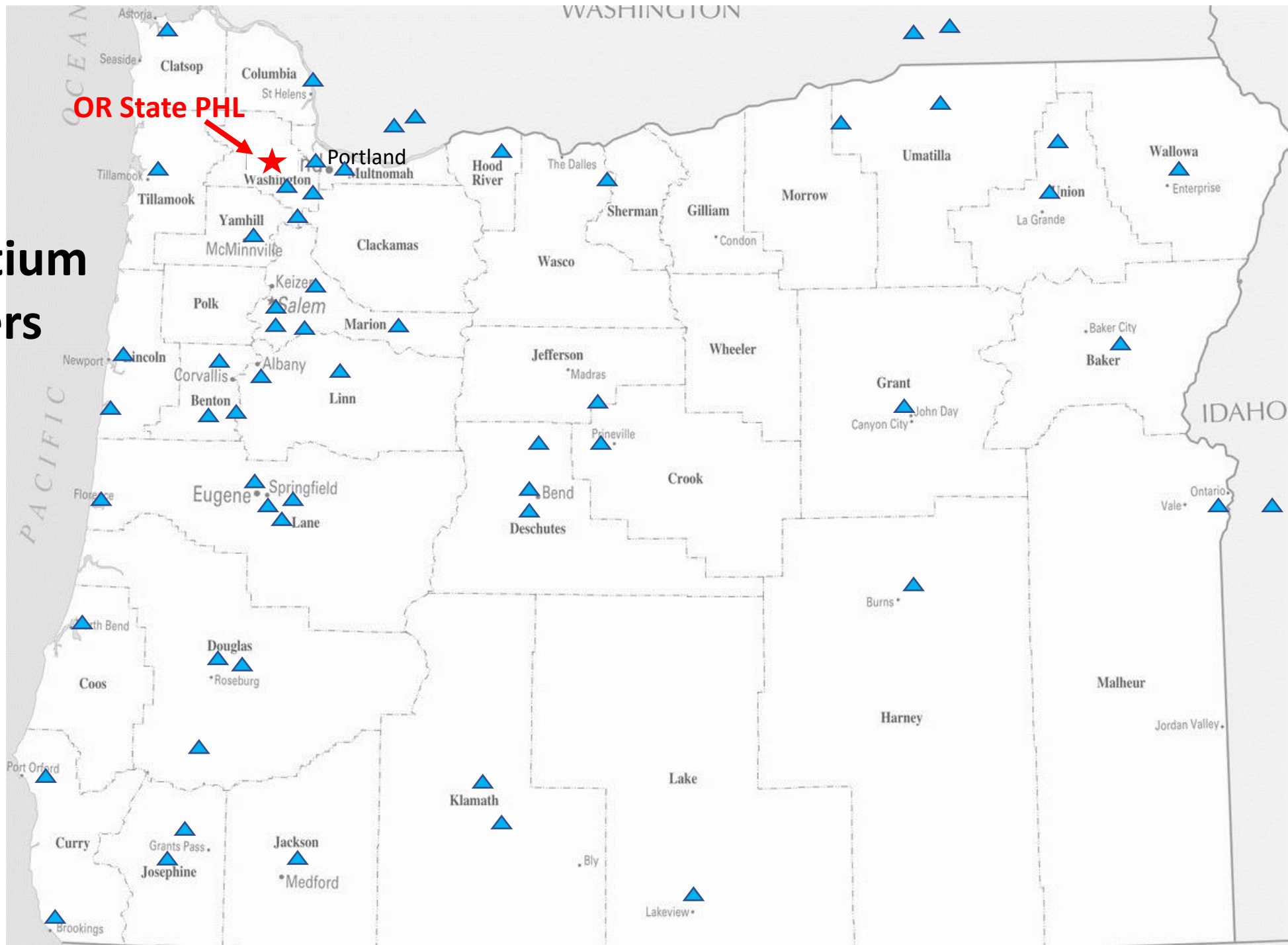
- ★ OSPHL
- ▲ Consortium Members



# Mid-2021 Consortium Members

★ OSPHL

▲ Consortium Members



# How did we establish the collaborations?



Oregon State Public Health Lab

- Academic laboratory advisory group
- OSPHL Operations & Facilities department
- State supply warehouse
- Meetings with state epidemiologists
- Word of mouth





# Collaboration: Academic Laboratory Advisory Group



Medical Laboratory Technology  
Program (MLT)



**NAACLS**

National Accrediting Agency  
for Clinical Laboratory Sciences



Medical Laboratory Scientist  
Program (MLS)





# Collaboration: OSPHL Operations & Facilities



- Problem specimens
- Questions regarding:
  - Testing, supplies, or reagents
  - Sample collection
  - Technical/instrument
  - Biosafety concerns



# Sample Packaging Issues



Sample floating in water in specimen bag



Frozen specimens with no temperature control

# Collaboration: State Supply Warehouse

## Laboratory items provided:

- PPE
- COVID sample collection kits
- Covid testing kits
- Other POC reagents

## Customers:

- Public Health Depts
- Correctional facilities
- Long term care/rehab/
- Hospitals/clinics



# Collaboration: State Epidemiologists

Topics discussed with state PHL:



- Sample collection
- POC testing issues
- Testing strategies
- Supply chain
- Biosafety



# Point of Care Testing Issue – Case Study

## Non-traditional testing site

- COVID outbreak (patients and staff)
- Staff routinely tested

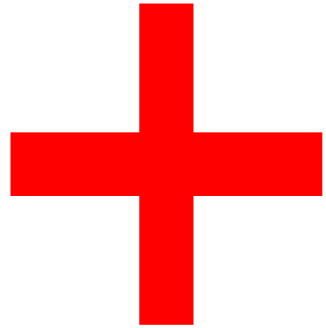
## Point of Care Instrument

- CLIA Waived laboratory POCT instrument
- Few moving parts
- Electronic readout
- No daily QC required
- Lot controls 1x/month or new lot change





# Point of Care Testing Issue – Case Study (Part 2)



Positive result



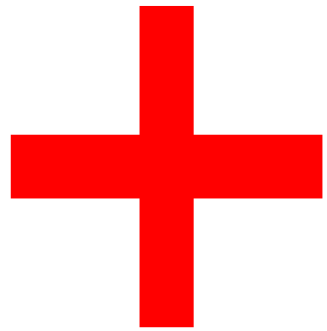
Quality Control OK result



Negative result



# Point of Care Testing Issue – Case Study (Part 3)



Positive result



Quality Control OK result



Invalid result



Negative result



# Maintaining Collaborations

- Providing Timely Updates (CDC, FDA, CMS)
- Meeting agenda with links to resources
- Townhall space to discuss testing, supply, resource needs
- Access to other members in audience (social network)



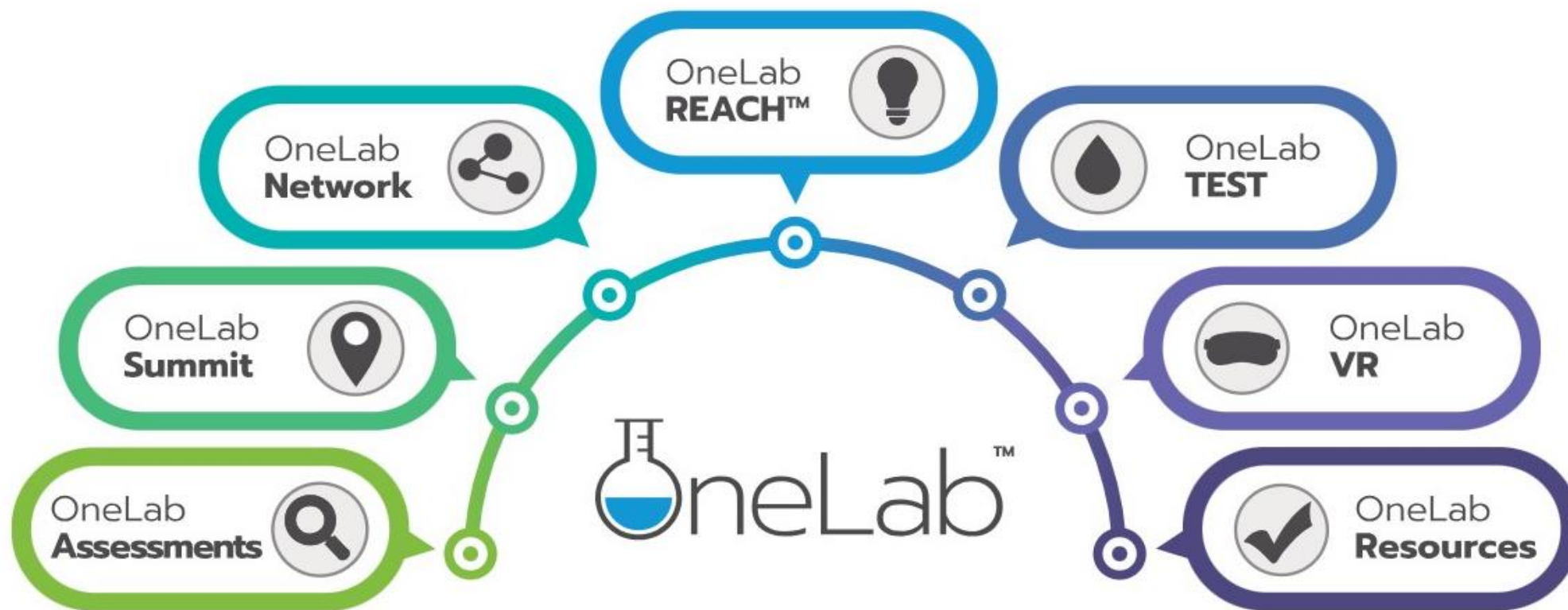




## Latest News from LOCS

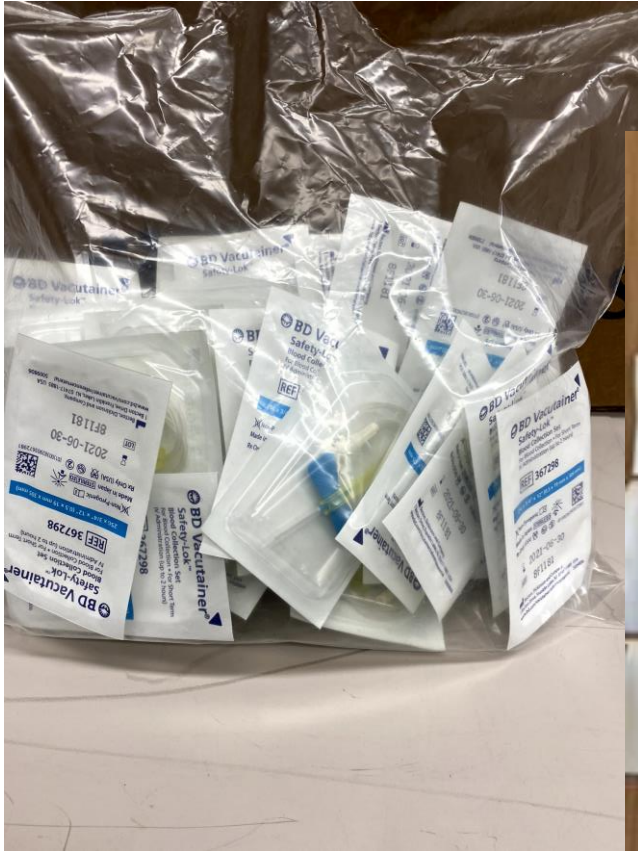
<https://www.cdc.gov/locs/>

- Updates from CDC, FDA, and CMS
- Health Alert Network (HAN) messages
- Laboratory advisories on POC testing, specimen collection, biosafety, and more
- Laboratory Technical Assistance



<https://reach.cdc.gov/about>

# Supply Chain Issues – Benefit & Challenge



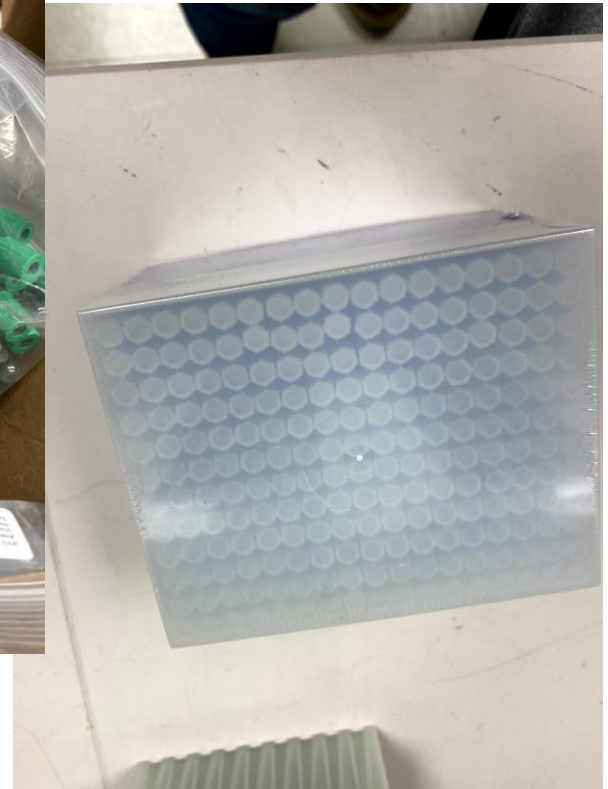
Butterfly Needles



Swabs, Swabs, Swabs



Unused  
Blood tubes



Pipet tips

# Longevity Challenges

- Sustained and consistent funding for public health laboratories
- Robust supply chain
- Methods for supply chain borrowing and exchange
- Changing laboratory technologies
- Communication





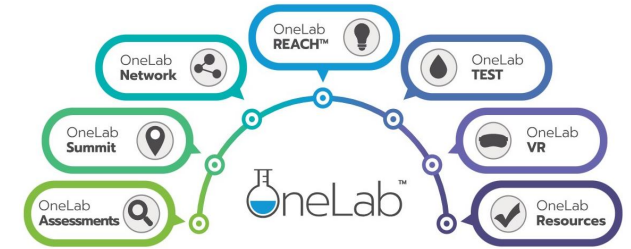
# Community Partners in Action

- Share your experiences and knowledge
- Reach out and engage with other laboratory partners
- Ask the following questions
  - Who do you coordinate and communicate with on a regular basis?
  - How would this change during an emergency?
  - What activities could occur now to prepare for the future?
  - What other questions could you ask?





# Resources



1. APHL Trainings & Tools. Accessed April, 2024  
<https://www.aphl.org/programs/preparedness/Pages/Training-and-Tools.aspx>
2. CDC OneLab. Accessed February, 2024.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/onelab.html>
3. CDC's Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS). Accessed February, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/locs/>
4. CDC's Biosafety Resources and Tools. Accessed February, 2024.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/safelabs/resources-tools/biosafety-resources-and-tools.html>
5. FEMA. Building Private-Public Partnerships. FEMA.gov. July 2021. Accessed February, 2024. <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>



# Thank you!

Teresa M. Wolfe, PhD, MLS(ASCP)  
Po'okela Solutions, LLC  
[twolfe@cdc.gov](mailto:twolfe@cdc.gov)

