

Public Health Laboratory

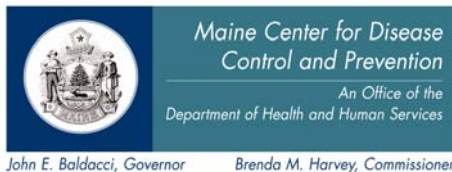
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The goals of the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) are to isolate, identify, analyze and monitor any biological, chemical, or radiological hazards that are capable of causing harm. We will assist other agencies in the prevention, treatment, and control of such hazards that threaten the community or environment. These essential services are provided cost effectively through a fee schedule established with the flexibility of making them available regardless of the public's ability to pay. Other roles include consultation with other agencies on state policy development and the quality assurance oversight of services provided by the public and private sectors.

Core Functions:

- ❑ Rapid responder to suspected outbreaks and contamination events
- ❑ Integrated information manager
- ❑ Environmental monitor
- ❑ Advocate for appropriate and high quality testing
- ❑ Reference service provider
- ❑ Technical and operations research leader
- ❑ Public safety enforcement
- ❑ HETL is accredited under the Association of Crime Laboratory Directors-Lab (ASCLD-LAB), considered the highest crime lab accreditation authority.



John A. Krueger, MS, ChE
Chief of Laboratory Operations
221 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Telephone: 207-287-2727
Fax: 207-287-6832
TTY: 800-606-0215
john.a.krueger@maine.gov
www.state.us.me/dhs/etl

Clinical Microbiology – Core Functions:

- ❑ The ability to test for emerging infectious diseases (such as SARS) is an integral part of the HETL's preparedness for all biological threats, including bioterrorism; i.e. Anthrax, plague and Ricin
- ❑ Virus isolates such as herpes simplex virus, influenza viruses, parainfluenza virus, and enterovirus
- ❑ Serologic tests detecting a wide variety of viral and non-viral agents including rubella, measles, chickenpox, and HIV.
- ❑ Epizootics such as West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses, and Rabies
- ❑ STDs: Chlamydia and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* by DNA probe
- ❑ Special bacteriology: Parasitology dysentery and giardiasis, foodborne illness, whooping cough, meningitis, plague, enteric bacteriology (to identify bacteria that cause typhoid fever, bacillary dysentery and Yersiniosis), bacteria that cause botulism and gas gangrene

Environmental Testing Core Functions:

The Environmental Section is a combination of the previous Department of Environmental Protection Lab and the Public Health Lab. Data collected from testing is used in a statewide database for health alerts and assessments of natural and unnatural contaminants. There are two Environmental sections, each providing analyses of drinking water for public water supplies (compliance) and safety and surveillance testing of private water supplies. In addition, analyses are provided for cleanup of hazardous materials spills, leachates, soils, groundwater assessments, biomonitoring (such as blood lead), and (WMD) chemical terrorism preparedness.

Organics:

The Organics Section utilizes highly sophisticated techniques such as gas chromatography and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry to analyze for hydrocarbons such as gasoline, organic chemicals such as PCBs, industrial solvents, and pesticides.

Inorganics:

The Inorganic Section utilizes sophisticated instrumentation to analyze for heavy metals, nutrients, water borne microbes, and radiation. New screens for public and private water supplies include Arsenic, Uranium, and Lead.

Chemistry/Forensic Chemistry - Core Functions:

- ❑ Public Safety solid dose drug identification for law enforcement agencies
- ❑ Certification of analysts for drug identification
- ❑ Blood and breath alcohol analyses
- ❑ Certification of phlebotomists for blood alcohol testing
- ❑ Certification of analysts for alcohol testing
- ❑ Approval and repair of intoxilyzers
- ❑ Certification of analysts for OUI-drug testing
- ❑ Agriculture harness racing horse/driver drug toxicology
- ❑ Radiation monitoring, radon/radiation testing, chemical terrorism preparedness.

Funding Source: General Fund for testing where there is no payer \$ 571,858 (7%); Dedicated Revenue Account - fees collected for testing \$ 4,561,025 (57%); Federal Funds from grants \$ 2,914,676 (36%).

Budget: \$8,047,559 (FY 06)

Staff Count: 69