

On-Call Standard

1.0 STANDARD STATEMENT

The Public Health Laboratory Division (PHLD) maintains an on-call system to respond to public health emergencies and routine public health responses that are associated with worked completed by the division.

2.0 RATIONALE

PHLD will assign laboratory staff to voluntary on-call duties to provide night and weekend (24/7/365) general laboratory response and logistic support capability for possible bioterrorism or chemical terrorism events, and non-terrorism related biological (e.g., infectious disease outbreaks), chemical incidents, (e.g. environmental spills), and radiological emergencies.

The PHLD on-call numbers may be supplied to the Minnesota Duty Officer, FBI, CST, State of Minnesota Hazmat Teams, emergency room physicians, Capitol Security, Health department managers and supervisors, Radiation Control Staff, and other on-call staff.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

Each on-call staff is also responsible for responding to equipment alarms in assigned areas. The electronic laboratory equipment monitoring system (Senso Scientific) will alert the on-call number by SMS text, in the Senso app, and (typically) email if PHL incubators, refrigerators, or freezers fall outside their programmed parameters. On-call staff is charged with investigating and resolving the problem.

One individual from the Newborn Screening program will be assigned to voluntary on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide response and provider and family support capability for babies identified through screening who may have a genetic or heritable disorder that requires immediate connection to care.

The on-call assignments rotate among laboratory staff that are proficient in assigned areas. Staff must respond and/or arrive in the lab within one hour's notice to initiate emergency response protocols.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

None

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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5.1 Infectious Disease Laboratory Section

- 5.1.1 One individual from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit or an Alternate Responsible Official (ARO) will be assigned to voluntary on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide general laboratory response and logistic support for possible bioterrorism and non-terrorist events related to biological incidents.
- Each on-call staff is also responsible for responding to equipment alarms in assigned areas.
 - On-call status will be rotated among the identified staff.
- 5.1.2 One individual from the BioWatch staff will be assigned to voluntary on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide molecular laboratory response for possible bioterrorism and non-terrorist events related to biological incidents, to perform BioWatch confirmatory assays, and to provide laboratory response to emergencies involving the Biological Defense System (BDS).
- On-call status will be rotated among staff proficient in performing required tests.
- 5.1.3 At least one individual may be assigned on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide laboratory response for public health testing in response to a public health event.
- This is for testing not related to BioWatch or possible bioterrorism events.
 - This testing includes Ebola or other testing deemed necessary to have available 24/7/365.
 - On-call status will be rotated among staff proficient in performing required tests.
- 5.1.4 Call-back will be maintained for testing of public health importance that occasionally needs to be performed during weekend or evening hours.
- This includes, but is not limited to, testing for rabies, swine or novel flu, MERS-CoV, other novel respiratory viruses, meningitis, and measles.
 - Staff proficient in performing the testing needed will be notified by their supervisor and will come in on a voluntary basis.

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5.2 Environmental Laboratory Section

- 5.2.1 On a rotational basis, one individual from the Environmental Laboratory will be assigned to voluntary Chem/Rad on-call status every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide:
- General laboratory response and logistic support for possible chemical terrorism events and non-terrorism related chemical threat incidents (e.g. environmental spills or industrial accidents), and
 - Initial coordination for radiological emergencies.
- 5.2.2 An on-call list for radiological emergencies is mandated in the Nuclear Power Plant Laboratory Emergency Response Plan and is a requirement of our contract with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.
- Each of these Chem/Rad on-call staff is also responsible for responding to equipment alarms in assigned areas including equipment alarms in the environmental laboratory.
 - These on-call staff members maintain Hazwoper Technician Level certification and attend annual emergency response training to continue certification.
- 5.2.3 Annually, approximately 20 individuals in the Environmental Laboratory are included in a roster of trained staff who can volunteer to perform duties pertinent to the Nuclear Power Plant Laboratory Emergency Response Plan.
- Other than the individuals who are also Chem/Rad on-call staff, these individuals are not on-call staff, and they are not obligated to perform radiological emergency duties.
 - The Chem/Rad on-call staff members (described above) are responsible for initiating the radiological emergency operations procedures.
- 5.2.4 Call-back will be maintained for testing of public health importance that occasionally needs to be performed during weekend or evening hours.
- This includes, but is not limited to, Total Coliform, *E. Coli*, and other environmental microbiology testing.
 - Staff proficient in performing the testing needed will be notified by their supervisor and will come in on a voluntary basis.

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5.3 Newborn Screening Section

- 5.3.1 One individual from the newborn screening section's follow-up unit will be assigned to voluntary on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide response as well as medical provider and family support capability for babies identified through screening who may have a genetic or heritable disorder that requires immediate connection to care.
- 5.3.2 One individual from the newborn screening section's laboratory unit(s) will be assigned to voluntary on-call every night and weekend (24/7/365) to provide technical response as well as test result entry/verification of time critical results for babies identified through screening who may have a genetic or heritable disorder that requires immediate connection to care.
- On-call laboratory staff is responsible for responding to equipment temperature alarms in assigned areas.
- 5.3.3 Call-back will be maintained for testing of public health importance that occasionally needs to be performed during weekend or evening hours.
- Staff proficient in performing the testing needed will be notified by their supervisor and will come in on a voluntary basis.
 - Call-back will be used if temperature sensitive reagents need to be moved due to equipment failure.

6.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENT/FORMS

PHL ALL EQUIP SOP 1001: PHL SensoScientific Monitoring Procedures

7.0 REFERENCES

None

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