

MONTANA LABORATORY SENTINEL NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM THE MT LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU, 800-821-7284,
WWW.LAB.HHS.MT.GOV
MAY 7, 2018

Bioterrorism Preparedness for the Sentinel Laboratory Workshop on June 7th, 2018

Montana Public Health Laboratory

This one-day, intermediate level hands-on workshop will provide an overview of the sentinel clinical laboratory scientists' role in the presumptive identification of the primary agents of bioterrorism. Participants will learn about the Laboratory Response Network and sentinel level clinical laboratory [protocols](#), updated in 2017, and found on the ASM website (www.asm.org) under the Public Policy tab. Laboratory demonstrations will outline the microbiology of these agents so that participants can recognize the culture, staining, and biochemical characteristics. The safety implications of handling suspected pathogens in clinical isolates and culture will be emphasized. P.A.C.E continuing education credits will be awarded for completing the workshop.

A hotel room block has been set up the Raddison Hotel, 406-443-2100. Reservations must be made by May 23rd. Be sure to mention the room block name, MT Public Health Laboratory, when making your reservation.

If you have questions about the registration process, accommodations, or travel reimbursement, please email cfortune@mt.gov or call 800-821-7284 or 406-444-0930.

Updated Guide for Sputum Specimen Submission

The APHL Guidelines for Submission of Sputum Specimens for Tuberculosis Testing, found on APHL's Tuberculosis website, www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/tuberculosis, have been updated to ensure it remains a relevant and useful resource. The new version, updated by the APHL TB Subcommittee, is now better aligned with current practices and policies, and expands on specific collection practices. Please share it with your fellow laboratorians, your submitters and your TB program!