

MLS Laboratory Update: Upcoming MDH Webinars: Select Agents & Rule-Out Review

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026

Purpose of this Message:

To inform laboratorians and other healthcare providers about the upcoming MDH webinars on Select Agents and other high-consequence pathogens that will be held Wednesday, March 11th and repeated on Wednesday, May 6th; both sessions from 12 noon to 1pm (CDT).

Action Item:

Please distribute this information widely in your networks – laboratorians, infection control staff, and providers are all encouraged to attend.

Background:

The Federal Select Agent program oversees the possession, use, and transfer of biological select agents and toxins which have the potential to pose a severe threat to public safety. When these organisms are suspected or confirmed, they must be referred to MDH-PHL. As a CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) reference laboratory, MDH-PHL has rapid, validated LRN methods that are unavailable to standard commercial reference laboratories.

The goal of this webinar is to provide background on Select Agents and to help laboratorians reliably identify when organisms should be referred to MDH-PHL. This is an intermediate level presentation intended to:

- Describe the **ASM sentinel laboratory testing algorithms** for ruling out Select Agents
- Discuss **laboratory identification and characterization** of Select Agents and other high-consequence pathogens, including *Francisella tularensis*, *Bacillus anthracis*, *Burkholderia mallei/pseudomallei*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Brucella* species, *Clostridium botulinum*, and viral hemorrhagic fevers.
- Review the MDH list of reportable diseases and **requirements for sending rule-outs to MDH-PHL**.
- Provide an overview of the **Federal Select Agent Program**.

Registration: [Select Agent webinar – Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory March 11th \(https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3ca0d5b4-4aa1-479b-b6c9-56dae5d0aeab@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c\)](https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3ca0d5b4-4aa1-479b-b6c9-56dae5d0aeab@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c)

Registration: [Select Agent webinar – Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory May 6th \(https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/54921689-a43e-4ddc-b79a-564670b0a297@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c\)](https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/54921689-a43e-4ddc-b79a-564670b0a297@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c)

Both webinar sessions will cover the same material – please only sign-up for one.

An optional one hour of P.A.C.E. credit is available for this activity to those who pre-register for one of these webinars. The Minnesota Department of Health is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program.

Additional Information:

Questions: Please contact Dr. Aaron Barnes, Emergency Preparedness and Response Laboratory Supervisor (aaron.m.t.barnes@state.mn.us, 651-201-4184).

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

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