

# **The Laboratory Response Network: It's Role in Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response**



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National partnership network to **develop integrated laboratory solutions to protect the nation and enhance threat agent detection capacity** for response to an act of biological or chemical terrorism and **other public health emergencies**

# LRN Vision

Establish an **integrated multilevel laboratory network** to provide rapid & critical laboratory capacity for response to:

- bioterrorism
- emerging infectious diseases
- other public health threats & emergencies

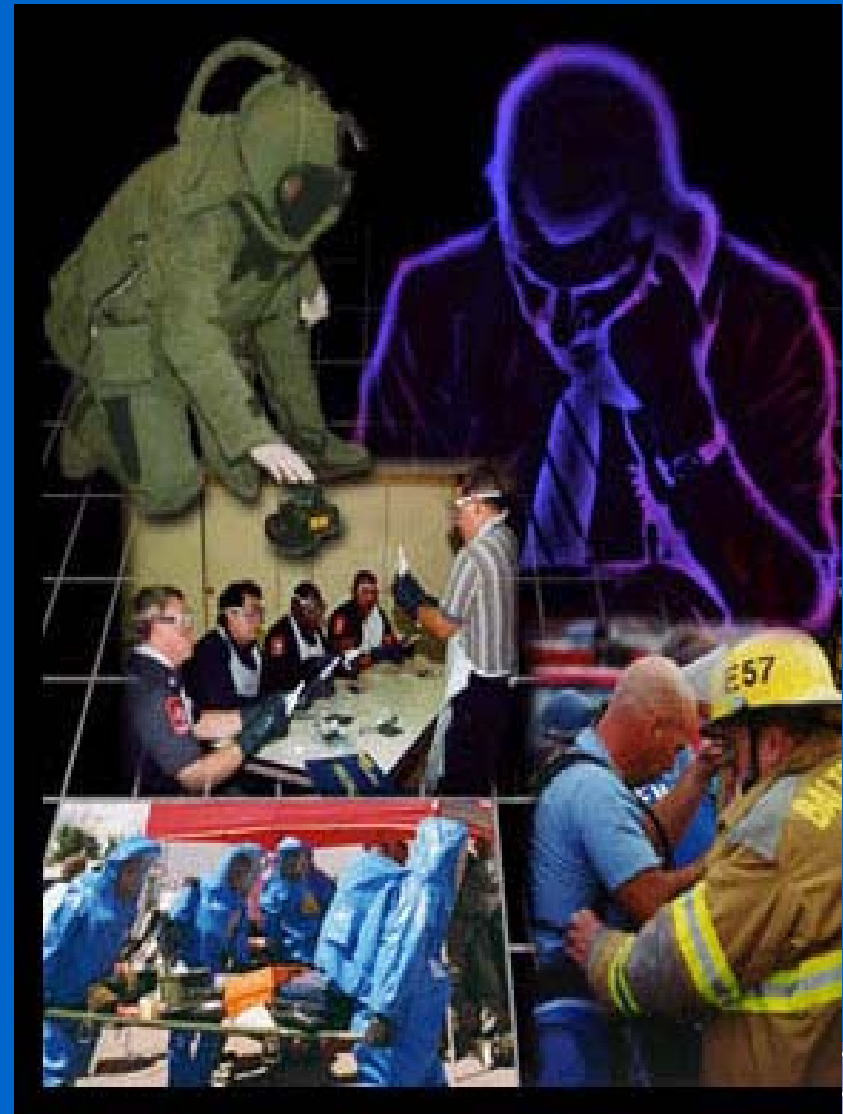
Includes both **biological & chemical** laboratories

# Challenge

**Congressional concern for national security and critical infrastructure to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction associated with biological and chemical warfare programs and the dissolution of the Soviet Union**

# Overt Event

Recognition	Early
Response	Early
Treatment	Early
Responders	Traditional HazMat First Responders



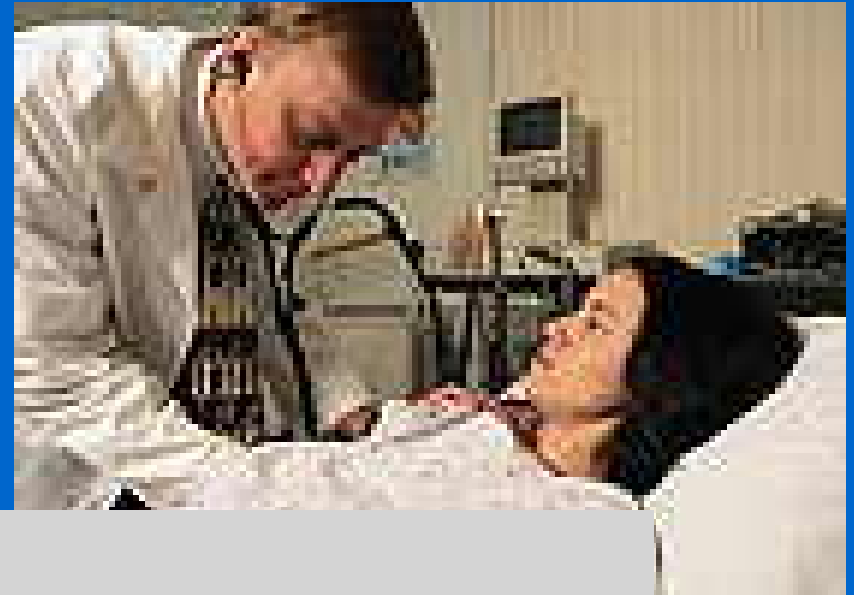
# Covert Event

Recognition	Delayed
Response	Delayed
Treatment	Delayed
Responders	Health Care Workers



CDC

# Front Line Response Begins at the Local Level





# Mission

**Laboratory Response Network** began in 1999

To **develop** an immediate **solution** to build **capability** and enhance **capacity** to **rapidly detect threat agents** in both announced and unannounced threat agent release scenarios



# CDC Strategic Plan (1999)

The Laboratory Response Network for Bioterrorism (LRN) is a **multi-level system** designed to **link** front-line clinical microbiology laboratories in **hospitals** and other institutions **to state and local public health laboratories** and supporting advanced capacity public health, military, veterinary, agricultural, water and food-testing **laboratories at the federal government level**



# LRN Founding Partners

**Centers for Disease  
Control and  
Prevention**



**Association of Public  
Health Laboratories**



**The Federal Bureau of  
Investigation**



# LRN Partnerships

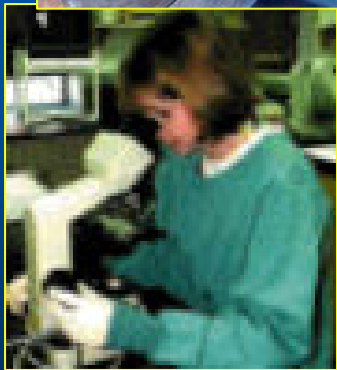
- Clinical Labs
- State & Local Public Health Labs
- Military Labs
- Veterinary Labs
- Agricultural, Water & Food-Testing Labs
- APHL & ASM
- FDA, NIH, & International Labs
- FBI, DoD, DOE, USDA, EPA

# Current LRN Lab Designations



**National  
Labs  
(definitive testing)**

**CDC and USAMRIID**



**Reference Labs  
(confirmatory testing)**

**State Public Health Labs**



**Sentinel Labs  
(recognize, rule-out, refer)**

**Local Clinics, Hospitals**

# Scope of LRN Labs



Current LRN National labs =  
**2 (CDC & USAMRIID)**

Projected LRN Reference labs =  
**250 nationally**

Possible LRN Sentinel “state-registered” labs  
**> 2,500 nationally (4414 are Sentinel-capable)**

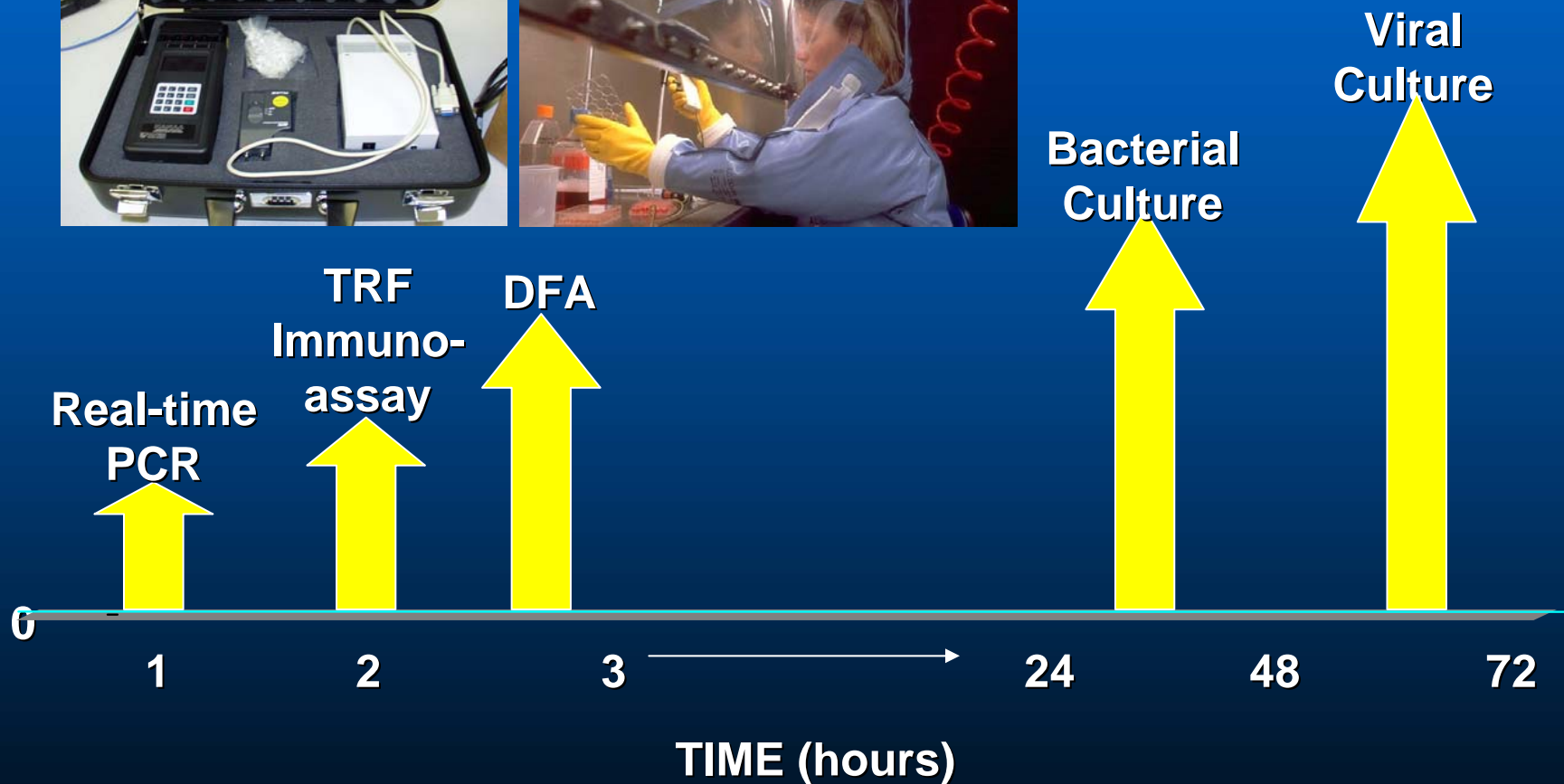
NOTE: LRN reference laboratory status involves technical proficiency & select membership



# Laboratory Testing Required in Support of Response

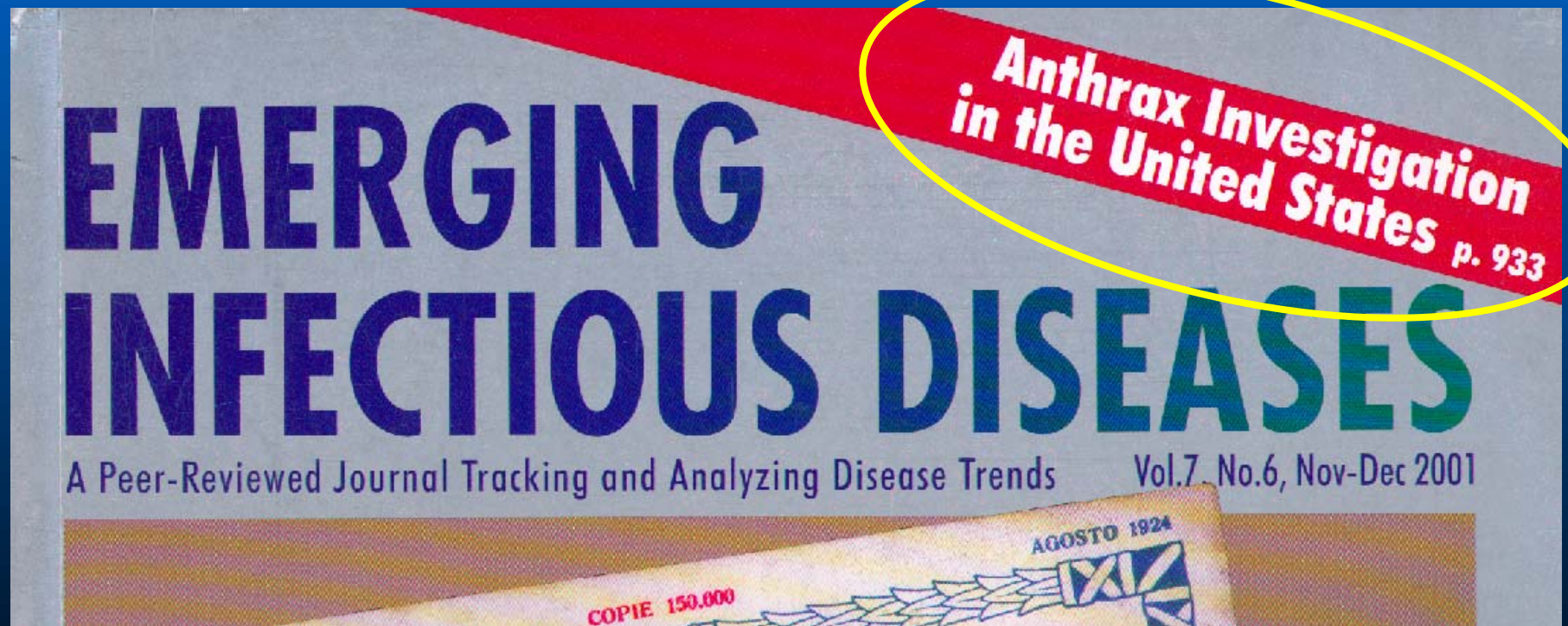
- Environmental samples for risk assessment
- Nasal swabs for epidemiological investigations
- Clinical specimens for detecting exposure and infection
- Culture isolates referred for confirmation

# Time to Results

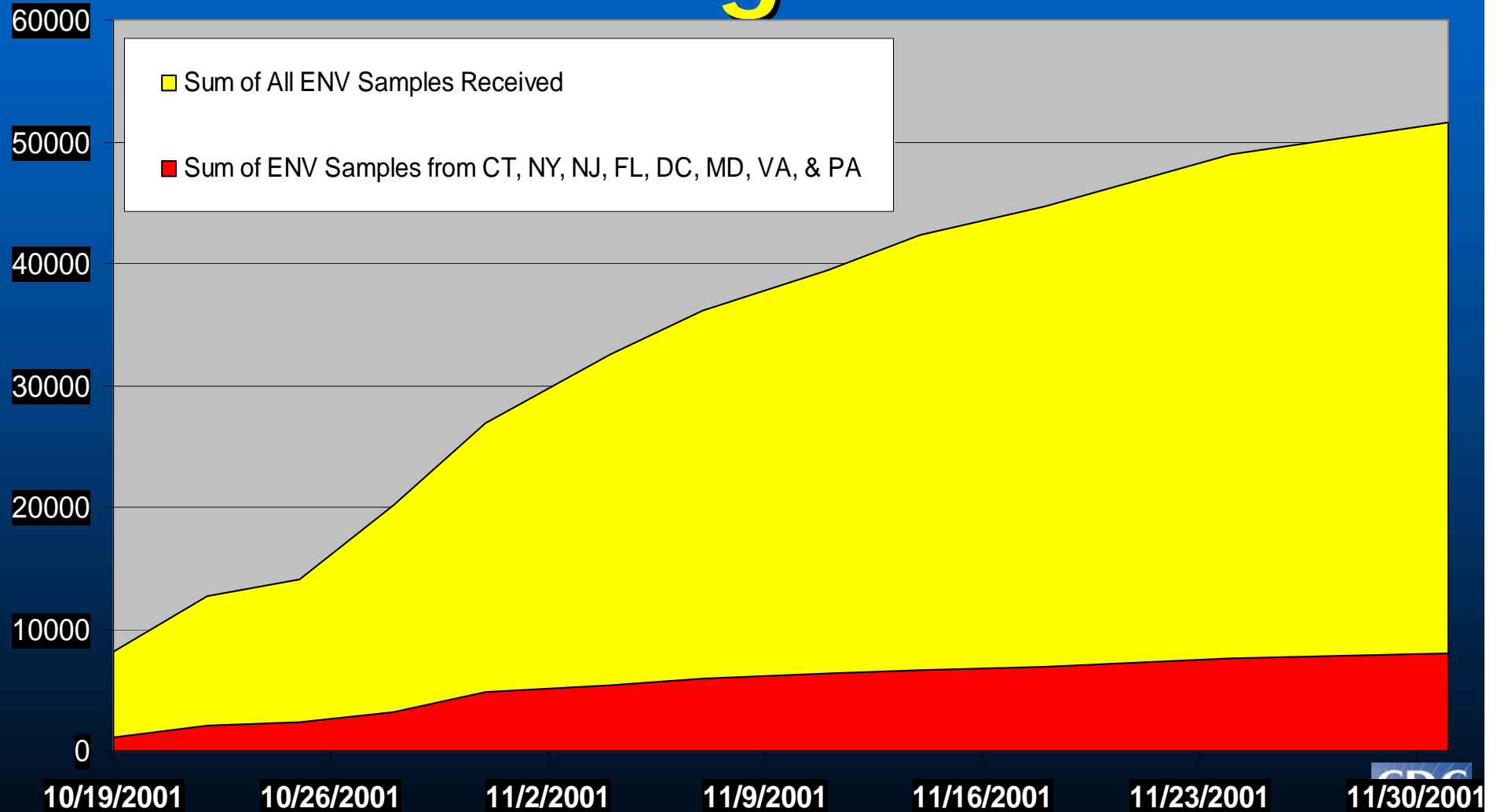




# The LRN Responds to Anthrax Attack in USA



# LRN Environmental Testing Load



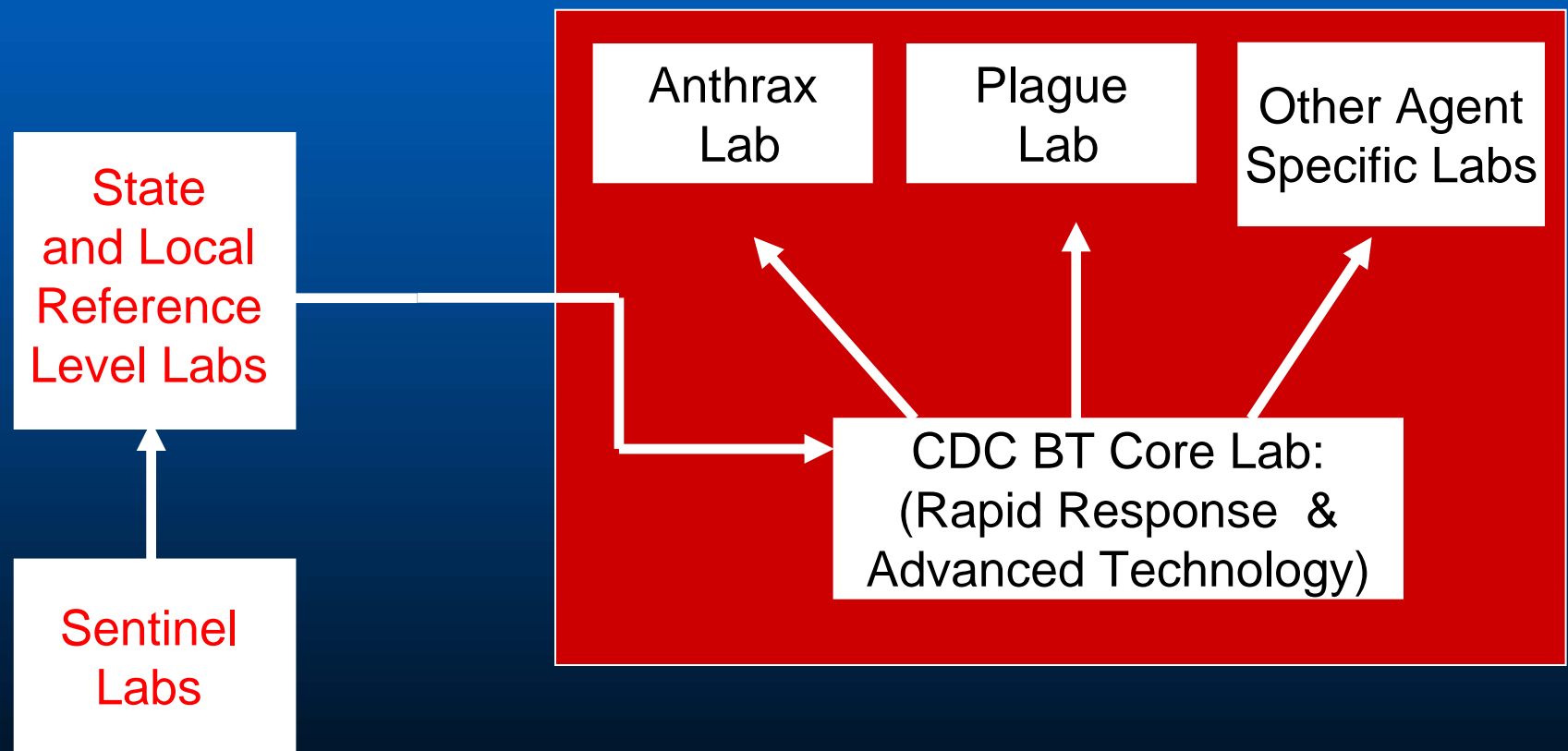
# CDC Bioterrorism Rapid Response and Advanced Technology Laboratory “the RRAT lab”

- Develop and expand network capacity for rapid identification of critical agents (technology transfer)
- Validate assays and standardize reagents
- Develop rapid biological screens (multiplex)
- Triage, screen and test “unknown” specimens
- Provide proficiency testing program
- Provide initial rapid response support to States

# LRN Structure for Agent Testing & Sample Flow

**State and Local Labs**

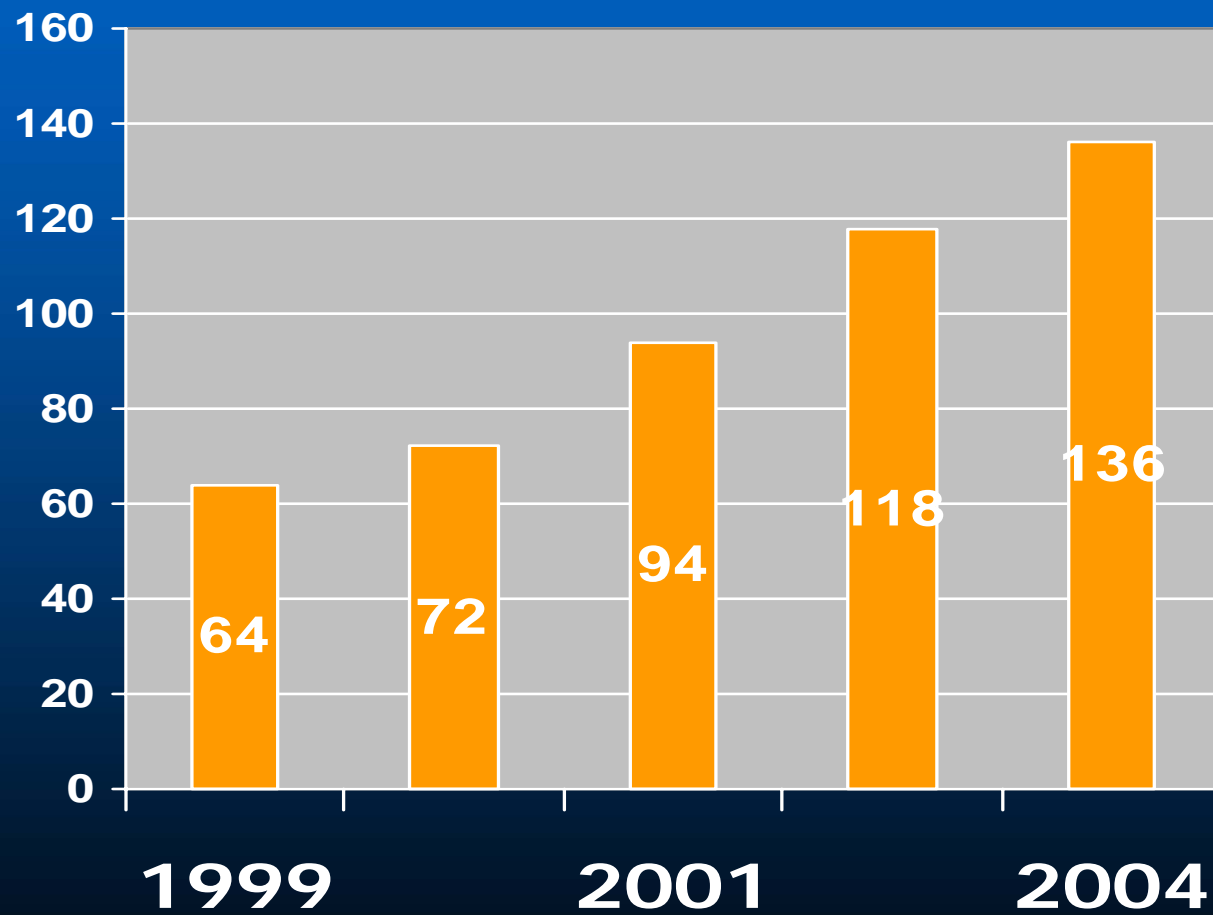
**Confirmatory  
(CDC or USAMRIID) Laboratory**



# Provided to Each LRN Lab

- Agent-Specific Protocols
- Standardized Reagents & Controls
- Lab Referral Directory
- Secure Communications & ELR
- Training & Technology Transfer
- Proficiency Testing
- Appropriate Vaccinations for Lab Workers

## Number of LRN Labs - Growth Over Time



# LRN Secure Web Site

APHL/CDC

BT Lab Guidance and Reagent Ordering

[Logon](#)

[Registration](#)

[Feedback](#)

[APHL Home Page](#)

## BT Lab Guidance and Reagent Ordering System



Welcome to the **BT Lab Guidance and Reagent Ordering System**. First time users of the system should register using the [User Registration](#) form. Registered users may access the system by entering their User ID and Password below.

This system allows authorized laboratory users to view Agent Protocol Guidance Manuals and order the Reagents discussed in the manuals.

Your ability to order a Reagent will depend on your laboratory's BT Security Level for that Agent and the BT security level assigned to the desired Reagent.

User Logon	
User ID:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Logon"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

Did you [forget your password?](#)

CDC



# Laboratory Protocols

Anthrax			Lab Procedures						
	TOC	Introduction	A	B	C	D	References	Appendices	Shipping

**LABORATORY PROTOCOLS  
FOR  
BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE LABORATORIES  
FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF**

***Bacillus anthracis***

**Notice:** Protocol subject to change  
**Last Updated:** September 7, 1999

This protocol is designed to provide laboratories with techniques to identify microorganisms, in order to support hospital clinicians in their diagnosis of potential diseases.

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BT Lab Guidance Manual

Credits

Close

DC

# Test Reagent Ordering

LRN

Laboratory Response Network for Bioterrorism

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## Anthrax - Order Reagent

Protocols

Anthrax

Plague

Tularemia

Brucellosis

Botulism

To order reagents, click on a disease name above.



To order Reagents, enter the quantity into the corresponding field and click the "Add" button.

Reagent	Info	Catalog #	Level	Unit	Tests/Unit	Qty	Action
Gamma Phage Stock Suspension	<a href="#">Details</a>	BP3123	B	.5ml/vial	50	<input type="text"/>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<i>B.anthraxis</i> pasteur avirulent positive control strain	<a href="#">Details</a>	BC3132	B	1.0ml/vial	~10	<input type="text"/>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<i>B.cereus</i> negative control strain	<a href="#">Details</a>	BC3133	B	1.0ml/vial	~10	<input type="text"/>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<i>B.thuringiensis</i> negative control strain	<a href="#">Details</a>	BC3134	B		~10	-NA-	Item Unavailable
<i>B.anthraxis</i> DFA Conjugate for Vegetative Cell Capsule Antigen	<a href="#">Details</a>	BG3124	B	50mcg/ml/vial	100 rxns	<input type="text"/>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<i>B.anthraxis</i> DFA Conjugate for Vegetative Cell Wall Polysaccharide	<a href="#">Details</a>	BG3125	B	50mcg/ml/vial	100 rxns	<input type="text"/>	<a href="#">Add</a>

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# Next Nearest Neighbor Laboratory Facility Locator

LRN

Laboratory Response Network for Bioterrorism

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## Lab Search Results

Lab Search Origin: Atlanta, GA 30333

Search Radius: 50 miles

Please call contact person listed to verify lab address and to discuss situation.

Click on "New Search" to select different search criteria for your report, or click "Done" to return to the main menu.

Lab Name	Contact Name (Title)	Address	Phone	Distance from Origin	BT Lab Level for "Anthrax"
Georgia - Decatur	<b>MAHIN PARK</b> (CLINICAL IAB SERVICE DIRECTOR)	1749 clairmont road Decatur, GA	(404)327-7905	2 mi.	B
Georgia - Decatur	<b>Elizabeth Franko</b> (Director)	1749 clairmont road Decatur, GA	(404)327-7900	2 mi.	B
Georgia - Atlanta (CDC BPRLS)	<b>Stephen Morse</b> (Deputy Director for Laboratory Services)	Lab Services Branch (BPRP/NCID) 1600 Clifton Road N.E. Atlanta, GA	(404)639-3559	0 mi.	C
Georgia - Atlanta (CDC BPRLS)	<b>Richard Kellogg</b> (Interagency Liaison & Intramural Lab Coordinator, Lab Services, BPRA)	Lab Services Branch (BPRP/NCID) 1600 Clifton Road N.E. Atlanta, GA	(404)639-0392	0 mi.	C

[New Search](#)

[Done](#)



Lab listed in grey indicates state or territorial public health laboratory for zip code of origin.

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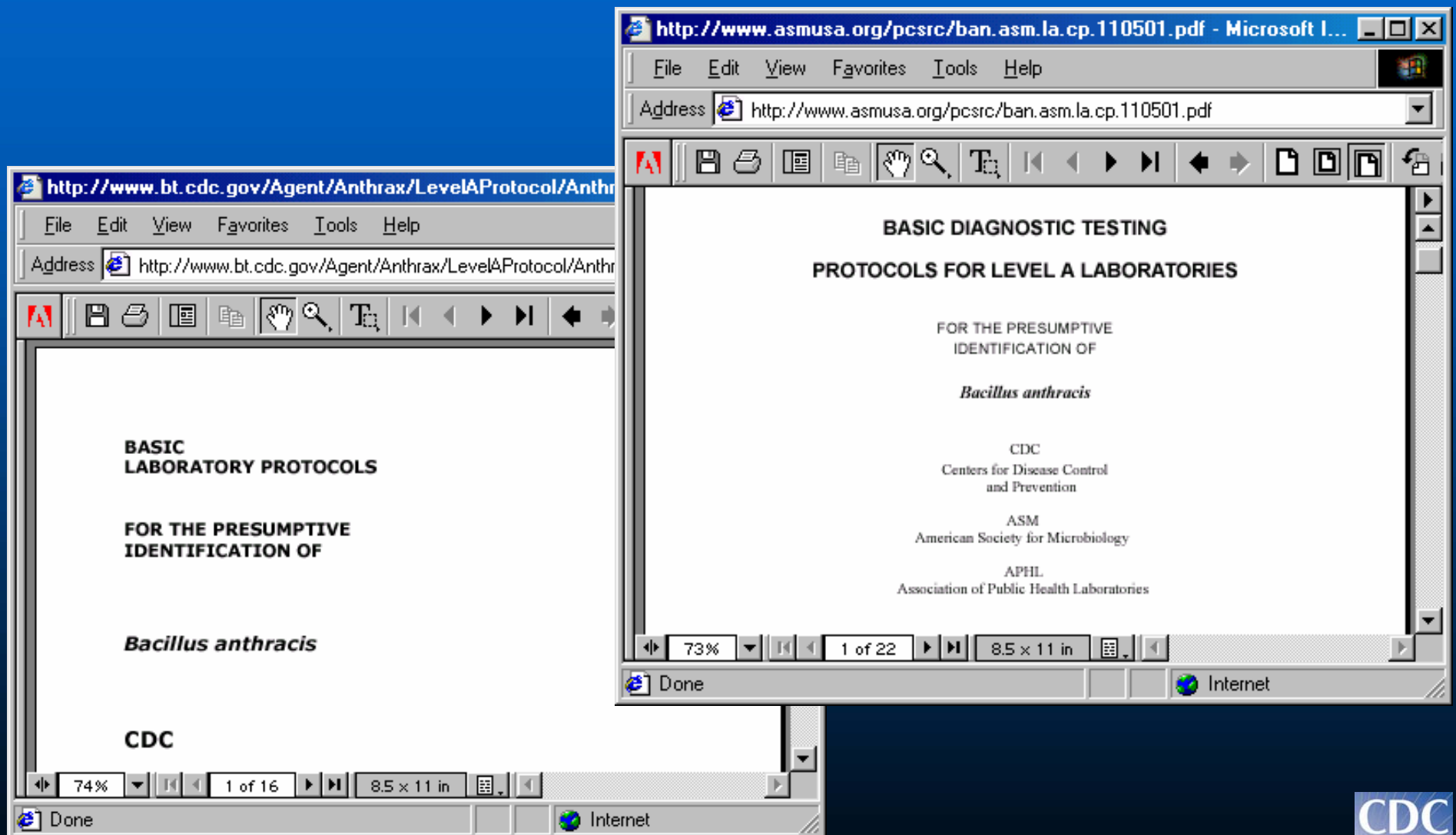
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# Public Access Information for Level A Network Users



# Laboratory Preparedness and Response Capacity Through Training

- Reference Level Wet Lab ("Hands On") Courses to train the trainers on specialized and rapid methods (at CDC)
- Sentinel Laboratory Protocols and training materials available for public access at [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov) (based on standard methods)
- Proficiency Testing Program to certify lab readiness

# Recent Capability Additions

- **Variola (Smallpox) Screening Laboratories (CDC/LRN Partner Labs)**
- Food Emergency Response Network (FDA/USDA/LRN Partner Labs)
- **Rapid Toxic Screening for Chemicals in Clinical Specimens (CDC/LRN Partner Labs)**
- Environmental Surveillance/Bio-Watch (DHS/DOE/EPA/LRN Partner Labs)

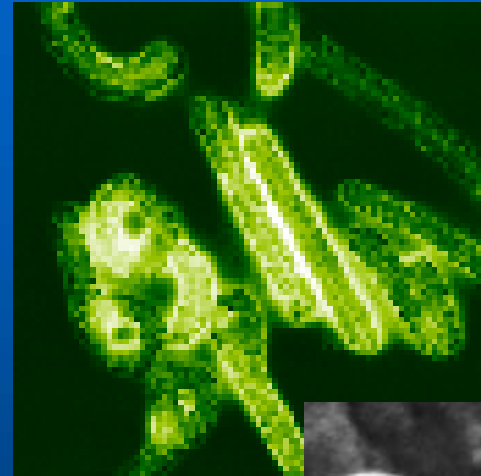
# Capabilities in Development

- Improved Environmental Sampling and Testing Methods (EPA/CDC)
- **Incorporation of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories for Surge Testing Capacity (APHIS/AAVLD/CDC)**
- **Development of Self-Contained Modular Specimen Triage Units for Processing and Screening of Unknown Samples for CBR Hazards (CDC/FBI/DOD)**



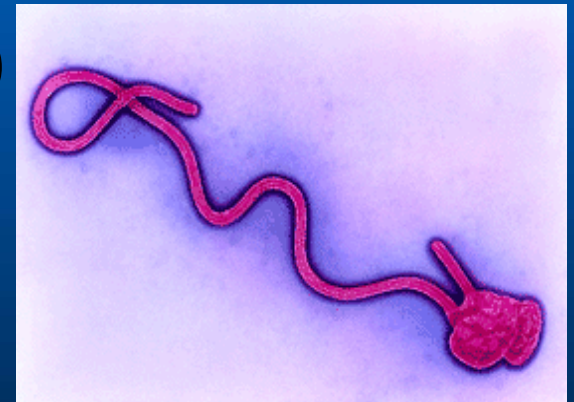
# LRN Capacity Since 1999

- *B. anthracis* (Anthrax)
- *Y. pestis* (Plague)
- *F. tularensis* (Tularemia)
- *Brucella* species (Brucellosis)
- *Clostridium botulinum* toxin
- *Variola major* (Smallpox)



# LRN Future Challenges

- Filoviruses Ebola and Marburg (VHFs)
- Arenaviruses (Lassa Fever and Junin)
- Alphaviruses (VEE, EEE, WEE)
- *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever)
- Ricin Toxin
- *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders)
- Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B



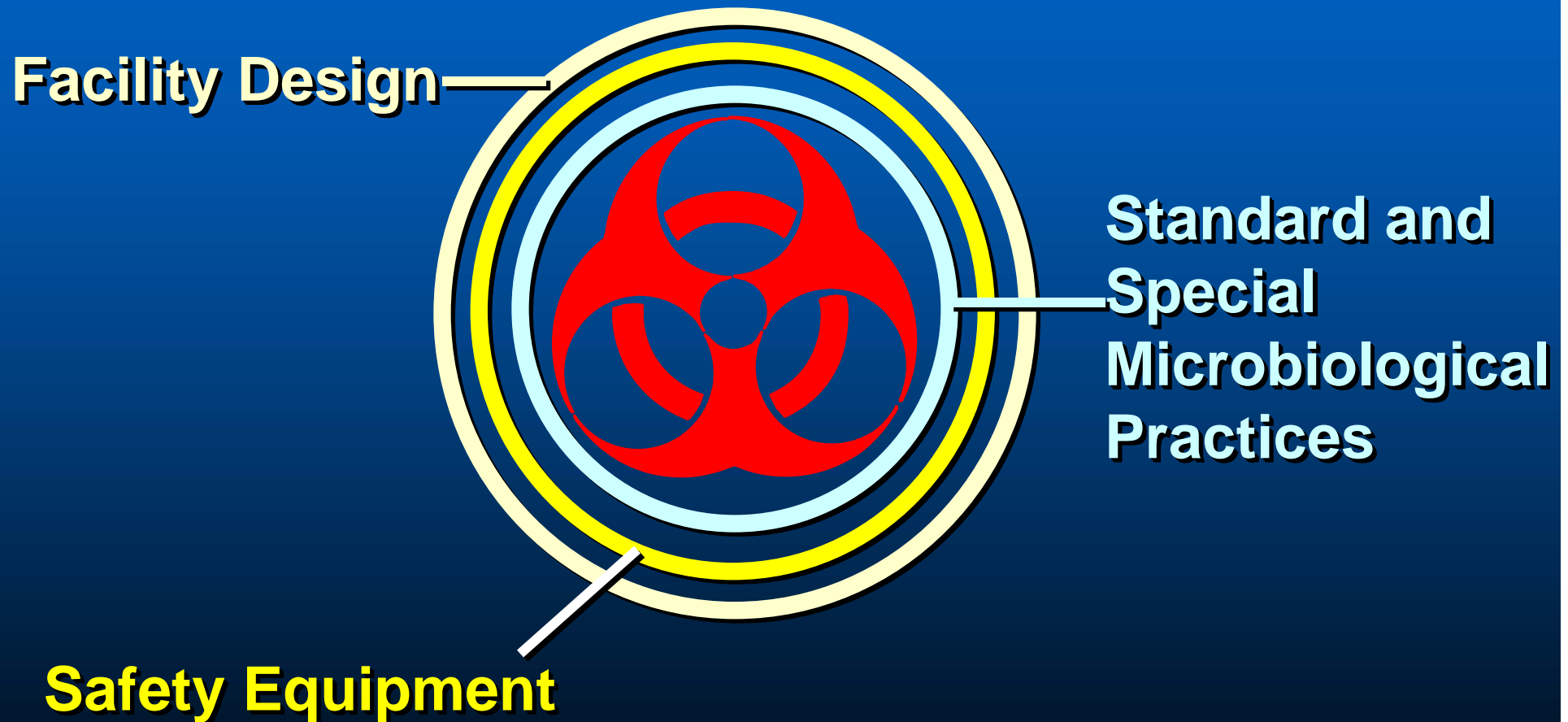
# LRN Future Plans

- Laboratory worker vaccinations
- Diagnostics for VZV, vaccinia, variola
- Electronic laboratory reporting
- Emergency food testing network with FDA
- New protocols and training
- Integration with chemical network
- New technology evaluations
- GMP reagent production

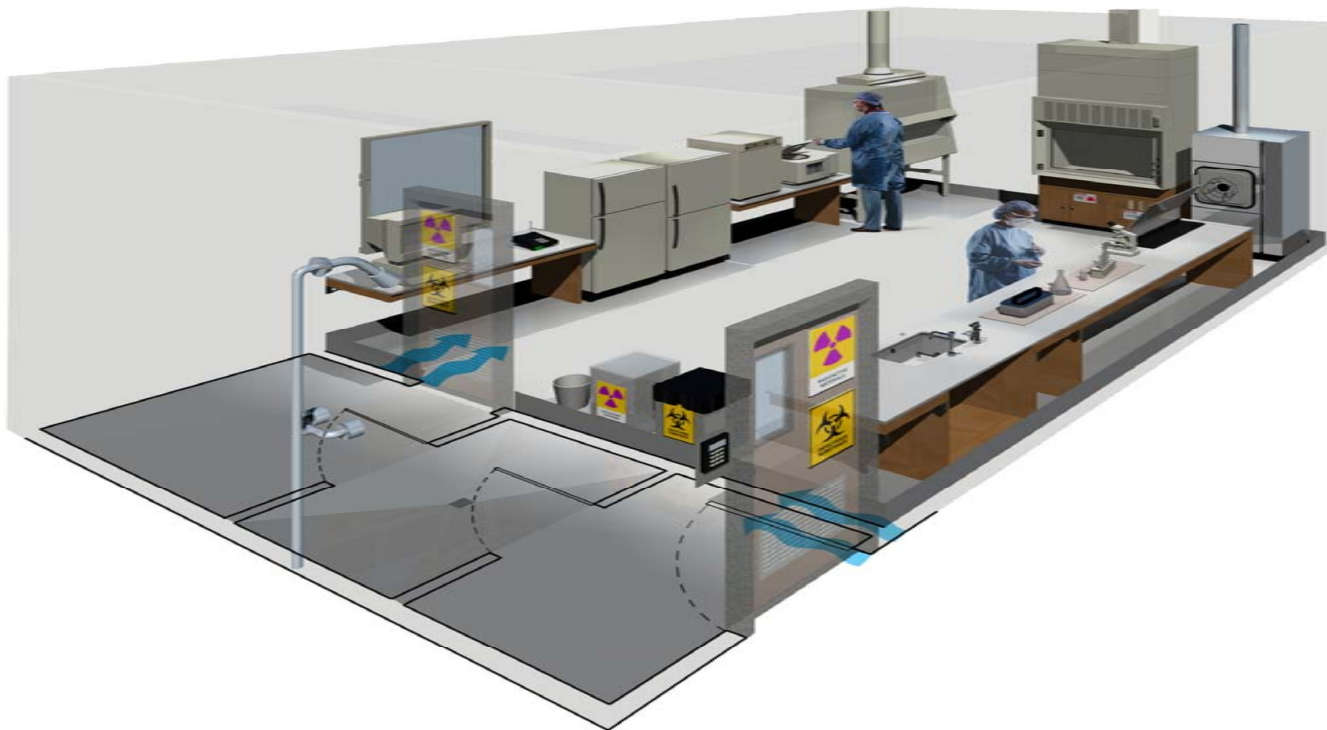
# Bioterrorism Agents and Biosafety in LRN Laboratories

<u>Agent</u>	<u>Biosafety Level</u>	<u>Laboratory Risk</u>
<i>B. anthracis</i>	2	low
<i>Y. pestis</i>	2	medium
<i>F. tularensis</i>	2/3	high
<i>Brucella</i> spp.	2/3	high
Botulinum toxin	2	medium
Smallpox	4	high
Viral Hemorrhagic fever	4	high

# Definition of Biosafety



# LRN Reference Level Laboratory (Facility design)



# Safety Equipment (Primary Barriers)

BSL-3: Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be required in the laboratory based on risk assessment

- Solid-front or wrap-around gowns
- Scrubs
- Coveralls
- Face shields
- Respirators





# **Facility Summary for LRN Reference Laboratories (BSL-3)**

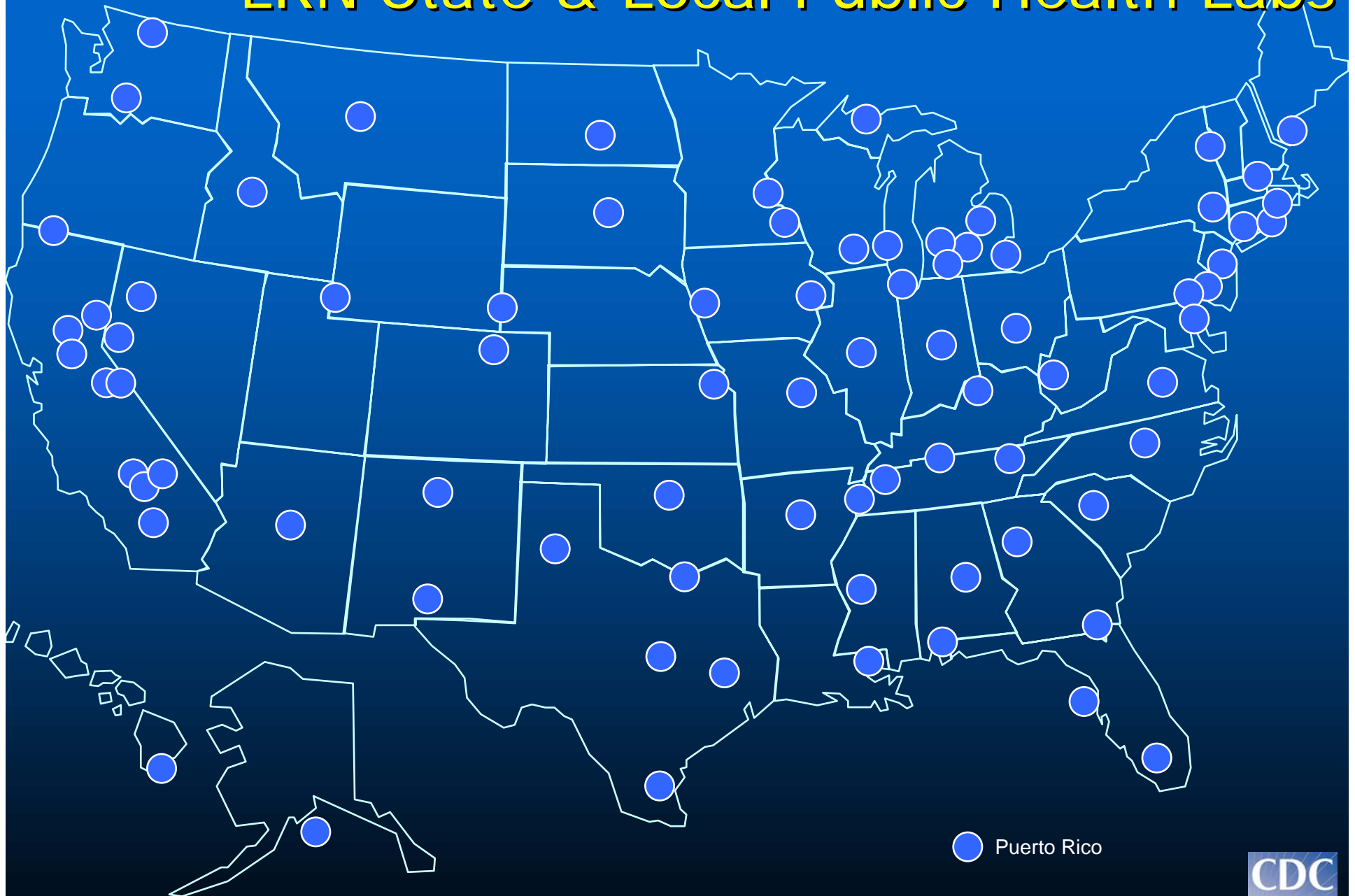
- **Separate from unrestricted areas, access controlled**
- **Self-closing, double door entry**
- **Directional inward airflow**
- **Single-pass air\***
- **Enclosures for aerosol generating equipment**
- **Walls, floors and ceilings are water resistant for easy cleaning;  
Penetrations are sealed**
- **Autoclave available for decontamination**

**\*Depending on agents used, a BSL-3 laboratory may require HEPA exhaust filtration**

# Laboratory Documentation

- **Facility Security Plan and Access Logs**
  - Based on risk assessment
  - Address access, visitors, maintenance personnel?
- **Laboratory Training Records**
  - Agent specific training?
  - How often performed?
- **Inventory Records**
  - How much on hand?
  - Depletion and usage?
  - How often reconciled?
- **Chemical Hygiene Plans for chemicals and toxins**
- **Transfer records**
  - Import permits
  - Interfacility EA-101s
  - Intrafacility records
- **Emergency response & Incident reporting procedures**
  - Security breaches, natural disasters, biological agent or toxin spills

# LRN State & Local Public Health Labs



# LRN State, Local, Federal & International



# LRN State, Local, Federal, Int'l & Military

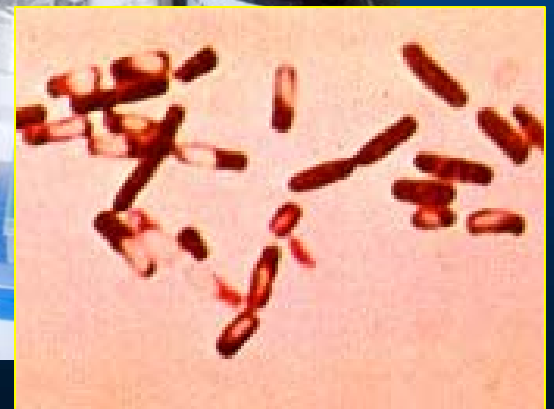
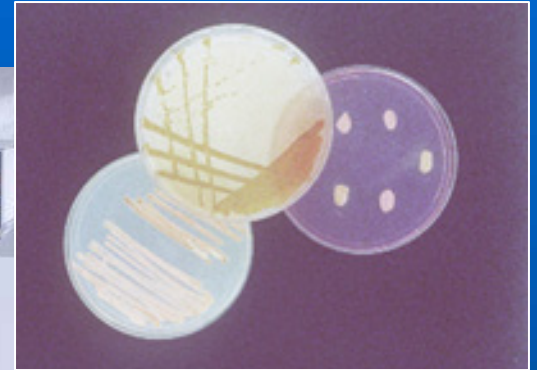






# LRN Formula

- Unified operational plan
- Standardized protocols and tests
- Secure communications
- Molecular diagnostics
- Rapid response and reporting
- **Trained laboratorians**
- **Safe, secure laboratories**
- Coverage for human, animal, food, environmental specimens
- CDC and APHL support and oversight
- Quality laboratory results





**Do you have any questions?**