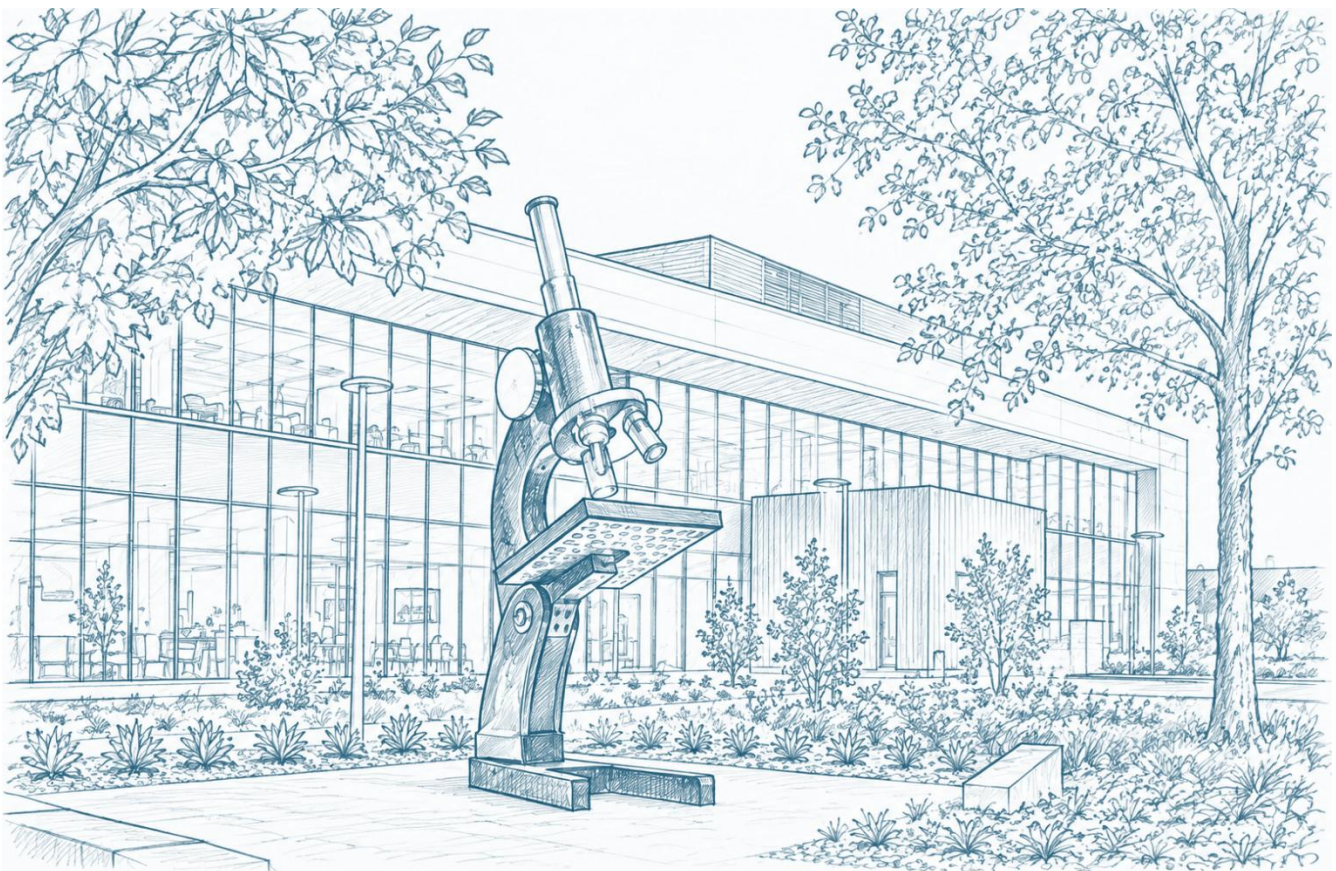


THE LAB REPORT

A LOOK BEHIND THE GLASS



SEPTEMBER EDITION

2026



THE LAB REPORT

County of San Diego
Public Health Laboratory

Celebrating Our New State-of-the-Art Laboratory

The County of San Diego officially celebrated its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 29, 2025. This marked an exciting new chapter for public health science and laboratory services throughout the region.



Built for a sustainable future – our laboratory facility is **LEED Platinum Certified**, aligning with our commitment to **sustainability** and **environmental stewardship**.



County Public Health Laboratory Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Take a tour of our new facility and explore our full services on our website → [Public Health Laboratory](#)

A Message from the Laboratory Director

Welcome to the first edition of The Lab Report! Our laboratory brings together science, service, and partnership to protect the health of our community. Through this newsletter, we look forward to sharing the people behind the science, celebrating milestones and highlighting new initiatives and offering a closer look at the work happening across our laboratory. Thank you to our staff and partners for making this work possible. We're excited about what's ahead and look forward to keeping you informed and connected along the way.



Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH,
HCLD/TS(ABB)

What We Do

Inside the Public Health Laboratory

The County of San Diego Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) safeguards community health through advanced diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, and environmental monitoring. Equipped with cutting-edge technology and a skilled team, the PHL detects infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and emerging threats supporting prevention, health promotion, and emergency response efforts.

Core Testing Areas *(click the links below to learn more)*

Bacteriology

Bioterrorism Preparedness & Response

Genomic Epidemiology & Sequencing

Molecular Serology

Mycobacteriology

One Health – Rabies

Training Lab

Specimen Receiving

Waters

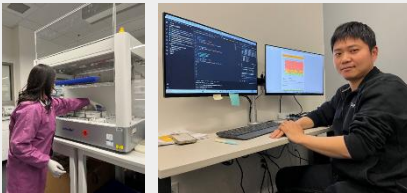


Public Health in Action

Wastewater Insights



Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard



Since opening our state-of-the-art laboratory in May 2025, SDPHL has completed the training and certification needed to bring wastewater testing fully in-house. With ddPCR and genetic sequencing, our team can now track key respiratory viruses and identify circulating SARS-CoV-2 strains in real time. This enhanced [wastewater surveillance](#) helps public health officials quickly guide messaging, deploy prevention tools, and alert healthcare partners to emerging or recurring disease threats.

One Health Rabies Prevention



County of San Diego Rabies Testing Program

SDPHL subscribes to a [One Health](#) approach, recognizing that human, animal, and environmental health are closely interconnected. This perspective helps the laboratory address complex public health challenges by integrating information from veterinary, environmental, and human health sectors. Rabies testing is a clear example of this work, with the laboratory routinely evaluating animals—including bats—to monitor local risk and guide public health response. By applying One Health principles, the laboratory supports informed decision making that protects both community health and the animals within our shared environment.

Training Tomorrow's Food Scientists

APHL Food Microbiology Training Workshop



SDPHL is excited to host APHL's Food Microbiology Fundamentals for Food Testing Workshop from September 29th to October 2nd. This hands-on, instructor-led course provides entry-level microbiologists with essential training in aseptic sample handling, core techniques, and documentation practices. Fourteen jurisdictions were represented at the workshop, highlighting SDPHL's strong partnership with APHL, the expertise of our team, and the advanced capabilities of our new training laboratory.



World Rabies Day: Thank You to Our Rabies Testing Team!

In honor of World Rabies Day (*September 28*), we celebrate the SDPHL Rabies Testing Program and our Epidemiology partners whose timely, accurate work supports lifesaving public health decisions. Their care, precision, and teamwork—both in the lab and behind the scenes—help protect the San Diego community every day. Thank you for all that you do!

Developing Future Public Health Leaders

SDPHL is proud to invest in the next generation of public health professionals through strong partnerships with APHL and SDSU. Our Fellows and interns gain hands-on experience, mentorship, and real-world training that build their skills and strengthen the future public health workforce. Together, these collaborations help shape emerging leaders while supporting the vital work we do.

APHL and CDC Fellowship Program



SDPHL hosts APHL and CDC Public Health Laboratory Fellows, giving emerging scientists year long, hands-on training in areas such as infectious disease, molecular biology, informatics, quality management, and laboratory operations.

Genomic Surveillance

Dr. Jimmaline Hardy leads CLIA validation for sequencing-based assays used in HAI and TB and has been instrumental in developing the sequencing workflows now used in our new lab since joining in early 2025.



SoCal Water Quality Study

Dr. Reann Leal is drafting a manuscript on her test optimization work for the Southern California Regional Water Quality Study (Bight '23), completing data analysis, and continuing her wastewater testing training at SDPHL.



County Opioid Surveillance

Dr. Derrick Moore supports the County's opioid surveillance and abatement work by developing a wastewater test for high-risk substances and managing equipment needs, troubleshooting, and SOP development.



SDSU Internship Program



SDPHL partners with SDSU's Health and Human Services Internship Program to provide students with hands-on experience in a working public health laboratory, offering exposure to lab operations, public health practice, and real-world projects.

Contracts & Fiscal Support



Jonathan Lastrella,
SDSU Intern

During his internship with the Contracts & Fiscal unit, Jonathan quickly identified challenges in the ordering process and partnered with the inventory team to streamline packing slip procedures. His efforts improved the invoice workflow and made a noticeable impact on daily operations.

Lab Support



Alonzo Mendoza,
SDSU Intern

During his internship with the Lab Support unit, Alonzo gained hands-on experience in specimen handling and media and reagent preparation, while strengthening his skills in biosafety, quality assurance, and laboratory workflows alongside the team.

Leadership in Action



Laboratory Director, Dr. Jeremy Corrigan, was recognized with the LEAD Award at this year's APHL 2026 Annual Conference. This award was presented to him for his outstanding leadership, advocacy, and commitment to strengthening the Public Health Workforce.

Recognizing the Team

Dr. Jeremy Corrigan was appointed president of CAPHLD, effective September 23, 2026.

Dr. Sam Hallis earned her HCLD certification and qualified through CA LFS for laboratory director licensure effective August 4, 2026

Dr. Anna Liza Manlutac earned her DrPH after successfully defending her doctoral project on November 19, 2025.



APHL Lab Appreciation Month

Together we keep San Diego communities healthy

We are proud to celebrate APHL's Lab Appreciation Month! We recognize the dedication of every team across our laboratory and the vital role each member plays in protecting community health. We also acknowledge the essential collaboration among public health laboratories and the importance of strong partnerships.

Thank you to our community and partners for your ongoing support. Together, we strengthen public health in San Diego and beyond.



Get Involved

Grow your experience while making a difference

SDPHL offers hands-on volunteer and internship opportunities for students, emerging professionals, and community members interested in public health laboratory work.

Explore our [Volunteer and Internship Opportunities](#)

Expanding Testing Capabilities

New PCR Assays Boost Public Health Response

SDPHL continues to advance its diagnostic capabilities with the validation of two new PCR assays:

- *Acinetobacter baumannii* complex OXA-Family Gene PCR (validated on 8/27/2026)
- Mumps Virus PCR (validated on 9/29/2026)

These milestones reflect the hard work and expertise of our laboratory teams and expand our ability to support rapid, accurate public health responses across San Diego County.

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