

Meeting Minutes for Lab/Epi CSTE/APHL/CDC Thought Leaders Call

Date:	Tuesday March 22, 2022
Start/End Time:	2:30p-3:30p EST

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1.	Open Call	Tim Southern (SD), Sherri Davidson (AL)
2.	COVID-19 Surveillance Framework Guidance	Review of DRAFT CSTE COVID-19 Surveillance Framework Guidance (Marci Layton, CSTE) ○ DRAFT document sent with the agenda for review ○ Interest in this document started late last year ○ Written in parallel with the CDC updated surveillance framework ○ Non-binding guidance ○ Challenging as not all states have the same systems in place ○ Ideally would go out as a consensus document with partners Feedback on the Variant Strain Surveillance section ○ National plan focuses on national picture. There is a need to understand local/regional picture and what is circulating in jurisdictions, not only national trends. ○ Clarify the ideal versus where we are right now. ○ Need different quality and depth of sequencing for different purposes, to answer different questions. Generate less data but more quality, useful data. ○ Commercial labs are useful to get the bulk of the sequencing to understand what is emerging and where. NOWCAST is used a lot. ○ However, need the PHLs with linkages to Epi data to understand if/how it is affecting the population, transmissibility, covid therapeutics, etc. ○ PHL-Epi link is key. PHLs can consider what to sequence and the epi data associated with sequences - do we focus on sequences of those hospitalized? Other characteristics? Leverage for outbreaks or other concerns. ○ Need to continue to build the capacity within our own states/jurisdictions, or we will lose the expertise, and if we refer out, testing is not as timely. ○ If commercial labs do high volume sequencing, then PHLs can reserve valuable capacity for outbreaks that need fast action. ○ PHLs should be able to prioritize ICU/ventilated, if uptick noted, to be able to see if potentially related to an emerging strain? ○ Some degree of baseline genomic sequencing has to be part of the lab and epi infrastructure, as it can take too long to identify specimens for special circumstances.
3.	COVID-19 Rapid Testing Guidance	Are there perceived gaps in the CDC interpretation for the public for results of at-home rapid tests? ○ Challenge is that PPV is complicated for the public to understand (incorporating prevalence of the disease, especially when prevalence is impacted by people doing home tests). It can be challenging to put into a public facing document. ○ Use of antigen tests in settings w/ low prevalence, performance can decline. There is a lot of advocacy for use of home rapid tests. Serial use is even more important in the low prevalence setting. How to best communicate to a non-scientist audience? ○ Are jurisdictions seeing dramatic changes in the use of home antigen testing? Are folks seeing pivots to use of NAATs? ○ Demand has dropped dramatically for both antigen testing and NAAT. ○ With cases dropping how do states have enough material for genomic testing? Some are struggling to get samples to the lab for genomic surveillance when PCR testing volumes have decreased. Has anyone used a novel approach to incentivize hospitals/labs to send samples? ▪ Partnerships with clinical labs has helped (Kaiser) – samples are sent and then randomly selected from those to sequence. Also, partnership with LabCorps has been successful to reach more remote and rural areas. Also, academic partners still doing some testing, as established

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		strong partnerships with academic partners during the pandemic. None financially incentivized. ▪ Note: Joe Derisi at Chan/Zuckerberg Biohub: BinaxNow antigen card swab, elute, extract, and get a good quality sequence. However, was not able to be replicated by another lab. Working on it further. It is possible, and has shown good quality sequencing. ▪ For IHS, sequencing and courier services are being done by academic partner from Binax cards as well. ▪ A lot of the specimens that do show up positive, the Cts are not low enough for 'good' sequencing. ▪ Another jurisdiction has focused on hospitalized cases and outbreaks. ○ Potential gaps in CDC rapid home test interpretation guidance for the public: ○ If sick, stay home. ○ Suggest that symptomatic people with a negative antigen test get a NAAT. ○ Clearer messaging for public if exposed or if symptoms: You SHOULD do a repeat home test, OR get a NAAT test, AND stay home/ISOLATE. ○ An example from NM: https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/COVID-19-At-Home-Test-Results_1.12.22.pdf ○ CDC has new updated guidance for HCPs for testing in the community: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html but, this is for HCPs, not on the public part of the webpage. ○ Discuss what would those recommendations look like? Come to a consensus on whether APHL/CSTE needs to put out a separate document or whether CDC can strengthen the guidance on their website with our feedback?
4.	Next meeting:	• Next meeting currently scheduled for Tues 4/5/22 2:30-3:30pm EST. • Tuesday, April 5 at 2pm EDT, CSTE will host a webinar titled, "Data to Action: The Public Health Value of Wastewater Surveillance". ○ Houston and San Diego to share how wastewater surveillance data is used to track SARS-CoV-2 and guide public health work. Registration is required: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUodOqhrjouH9K3VWsTGc7tvaBdA8F1hKPp ○ Start Lab/Epi Mtg 30 min later with further wastewater discussion 3-3:30pm EST.

Action Items

[From last meetings, until closed]

#	Activities/Deliverables	Action Item/Responsible	Due Date	Status
1.	CSTE COVID-19 Surveillance Framework	☐ Lab/Epi Workgroup members – send any edits as soon as possible to Marci Layton (mlayton@cste.org) ☐ Liz Dufort to revise document with edits from the WG mtg.	3/29/22 3/25/22	Pending
2.	Rapid Test Results Interpretation	☐ Lab/Epi WG leads to review messaging with CDC and discuss next steps	3/29/22	Pending
3.	Next Lab/Epi WG Mtg	☐ Next meeting to begin 30 minutes late to allow WG members to join the CSTE Wastewater Surveillance Webinar Tues 4/5 2-3PM EST ☐ Lab/Epi WG Mtg to follow from 3-3:30PM EST to discuss wastewater surveillance. ☐ REGISTRATION REQUIRED for the CSTE Wastewater surveillance webinar (Tues 4/5 2-3PM EST) https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUodOqhrjouH9K3VWsTGc7tvaBdA8F1hKPp	4/5/22	Pending
4.	Next meeting: Tuesday, 4/5/22 at 3-3:30PM **MOVED TO 3PM to accommodate the CSTE Wastewater Surveillance Webinar from 2-3PM**			