

CSTE COVID-19 Consultancy Project

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

Date:	Tuesday March 8, 2022
Start/End Time:	2:30p-3:30p EST

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

#		
1.	Open Call	Tim Southern (SD), Sherri Davidson (AL) Introduction of CSTE COVID-19 Consultants (Brad Hutton & Liz Dufort)
2.	Open Discussion Topics (continued from 2/22 call)	What recommendations does the Thought Leaders Group have for changes to testing, reporting, etc.? (with the goal of constructing testing recommendations and advancing those recommendations to CDC (much like CSTE/ASTHO did with CI/CT)). - CDC presented yesterday on the All State Epi Call which some were able to attend. Reviewed the plans to stop reporting negatives for antigen testing – which jurisdictions responded positively about. - New surveillance approaches was initially called Surveillance 2.0, then Surveillance Next, now just new surveillance goals and approaches - will be shared in the near future. Currently in review and approval process and expected to be able to share soon for use in 2 weeks to 1 month as a best estimate of potential timeframe. - Reportedly is well aligned with CSTE draft document on new surveillance goals and methods. - Jurisdictions reported a huge relief to not have to manually enter negatives. However, would need support and resources to continue to use newer data systems moving forward. - Expressed concern re: no upcoming plans to remove negative reporting for NAATs given undue burden on jurisdictions to process. Still a very significant burden. - Updates to these approaches were noted to be difficult due to legislation, which is challenging to revise when legislated in detail - Reminder was raised that we have been working on this for a year - One item to address: when discussing the roles of clinical, public health, and commercial laboratories → should add academic labs to this list
3.	Genomic Surveillance and Sequencing Expectations	How do we establish jurisdictional sequencing goals that meet jurisdiction and federal needs? Development of a “right-size” model for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance if our goal is to develop a national surveillance system for SARS-CoV-2 that is capable of quickly identifying and tracking new and emerging variants. - Some aspects of national strategy on genomic surveillance was shared on the All State Epi Call yesterday - May need to have jurisdictional level strategy - What are the questions we are trying to ask and answer with genomic surveillance? We need to establish this to establish how to right size and how to implement strategically - Needed for treatment decisions How many states have genomic surveillance capacity? Does each SPHL need to do surveillance or should we have a regionalized approach? - All SPHLs have capacity, all but one are actively doing genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2, and 71 PHLs are engaged in genomic surveillance. - State genomic surveillance data might be heavily influenced by urban centers, which can impact use of therapeutics in rural settings perhaps having a different timeframe on variants. This is an example of the level of surveillance to be discussed. - We need a science based algorithm to guide sequencing, based on modeling data, to target emerging variants.

#		
		- Current approach with very large numbers of sequencing is not sustainable and leads to levels of data input that are not able to be easily digested and analyzed for valuable information and additionally limits the PHLs abilities to work on other pathogens of PH concern. - Concerns about regionalization raised, as this could increase TAT, lack standardization, and we would lose the advances we have made at all the PHLs to this time. - We should use regionalization as a tool to support each local/state PHL w expert support - In addition to right sizing and figuring out a strategic approach, we need to be more clear about coverage % and what comes in from other labs to standardize. - Remember, we have come so far so fast, in one year! What we did in this short time was remarkable! - Moving forward in PH, we are likely to have genomic surveillance as a core part of what we do in PHLs – the next frontier. - Right sizing is not just a number it is about sustaining the capabilities at the PHLs and potential supportive role at the regional level
4.	Wastewater Genomic Surveillance	Genomic surveillance in wastewater (WW): - Data being generated are not being utilized correctly. Water testing is not always performed by the SPHLs and some of the agencies that test water are approaching it as a research project. - We have a lot more that we need to figure out with how to use wastewater testing. For example, it might be beneficial in a ward or dorm, to produce valuable information, versus in a large city. - It has not been a leading indicator that people had hoped. As incidence goes down, it might be better, esp as surveillance is impacted by increases in non-reported home testing. But, not yet clear. And unclear how it correlates or doesn't correlate with circulating virus variants. Could potentially be useful, but no one is hanging their hat on it yet. Coordination is challenging as it crosses multiple agencies and academics. - Others not certain of the public health value at this time, but as it is now part of ELC, will work on enhanced communication with environmental agency and academics re: coordination. - Academics may not want to upload their genomic sequencing bc they want to publish papers on it. This is a challenge. - If WW surveillance does find some variant that isn't making anyone sick, what is the value there? - In April, we can have someone from the national wastewater surveillance group join the meeting. - Focus on what questions we are asking and how they will be answered by the data resulted

Action Items

[From last meetings, until closed]

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
1.	Check with APHL lead if APHL is interested in Brad/Liz completing minutes/action items for all mtgs (including the next meeting on Tues 3/22)	Bernadette/Maria	3/15/22	Pending
2.	For April meeting, consider a speaker from the national wastewater surveillance group <i>Request that they focus on what PH questions might be asked of WW surveillance, how the data would answer these questions, and what PH action might be taken based on these data?</i>	Bernadette/Maria/Kelly/Co-leads/Brad/Liz to discuss during agenda discussions	3/15/22	Pending
3.	Next meeting: Tuesday, 3/22 at 2:30 PM ET			

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE