

## Laboratory Core Competencies

The Public Health Laboratory Bioterrorism & Emergency Readiness Competencies were developed by staff of the Iowa University Hygienic Laboratory in 2005. There are 2 domains (roles) with a total of 25 competency statements. There is a range of 4-21 competencies/domain and it is estimated that it can take up to 20 min to complete the entire self-assessment.

This competency set is for public health laboratory personnel.

### Preparedness & Planning (n=21)

#### Competencies

Name	Description
HLCore1d Laboratory Role	Describe the role of the University Hygienic Laboratory, sentinel and the basic-capacity laboratory in emergency response for a range of emergencies that might arise including biological and chemical events.
HLCore2ad Communication with UHL	Maintain regular communication with the University Hygienic Laboratory and with partner professionals in the organization and county involved in emergency response.
HLCore2d Chain of Command	Describe the chain of command within the laboratory and organization in an emergency response.
HLCore3ad Terrorism Response Plan	Generate a terrorism response plan that is integrated with the organizations and county emergency response plan (CAP MIC.18976).
HLCore3bd Written Staffing Plans	Maintain written plans for staffing availability during a terrorism or emergency event.
HLCore3cd Safety Measures	Specify safety measures to be taken in an event, including use of personal protective equipment.
HLCore3d Emergency Response Plan	Identify and locate the organizational emergency response plan.
HLCore3dd Exercises	Participate in organizational and local exercises
HLCore3ed Organism Referral Protocols	Maintain organism protocols to be used to rule out or refer to the UHL.
HLCore3fd Communication Plans	Define laboratory communication plans and protocols for disseminating information to emergency response partners during an emergency.

HLCORE4ad Supplies	Maintain information and supplies as received from the UHL.
HLCORE4d UHL Biological Defense Kit	Identify and locate the UHL Biological Defense Kit Describe the contents of the Kit
HLCORE5d Laboratorian's Role	Describe the laboratorian's role in emergency response and demonstrate these roles during organizational or local exercises.
HLCORE6d Communication Equipment	Demonstrate correct use of all communication equipment/systems used for emergency communication, including the Iowa Health Alert Network, phone, fax, etc.
HLCORE7ad Communication Role Within Organization	Describe the laboratorian's communication role(s) in an emergency response within the organization.
HLCORE7bd Communication Role With Media	Describe the laboratorian's communication role(s) in an emergency response with the media.
HLCORE7cd Communication Role With General Public	Describe the laboratorian's communication role(s) in an emergency response with the general public.
HLCORE7dd Communication Roles With Personal Contacts	Describe the laboratorian's communication role(s) in an emergency response with personal contacts (family, neighbors).
HLCORE8t Limits and Referrals	Identify limits to own knowledge and responsibilities, and identify key system resources for referring matters (flow charts, call trees, phone lists).
HLCORE9ad Isolates Recognition	Maintain written policies and procedures for the recognition of isolates that may be used as agents of bioterrorism. (CAP MIC.18968)
HLCORE9d Event Recognition	Recognize unusual organisms and events that might indicate an emergency and describe appropriate action.

## Response & Mitigation (n=4)

### Competencies

Name	Description
HLCORE10ad Sentinel Laboratory Testing and	Maintain the ability for a sentinel laboratory to rule-out testing and rapid referral to the UHL.

Referral	
HLCORE10bd Iowa Laboratory Response Network Protocols	Implement Iowa Laboratory Response Network protocols when needed (CAP MIC.18976)
HLCORE10cd Communication Systems and Protocols	Use established communication systems and protocols for coordination among the response community, including the Iowa Biological and Chemical Threat Agent Protocol Model.
HLCORE10d Reporting System	Ensure a functioning system for result reporting during a bio- or chemical terrorism event.