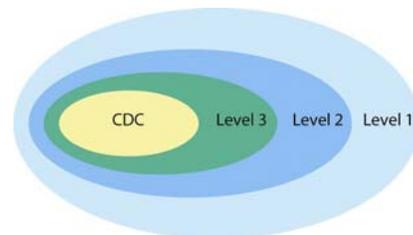




Laboratory Network for Chemical Terrorism

Currently, 62 state, territorial and metropolitan public health laboratories are members of the chemical component of the network. A designation of Level 1, 2, or 3 defines network participation, and each level builds upon the preceding level.



Level 1 Laboratories

Each chemical network member participates in Level 1 activities. Level 1 laboratories are responsible for:

- Working with hospitals in their jurisdiction;
- Knowing how to properly collect and ship clinical specimen;
- Ensuring that specimens, which can be used as evidence in a criminal investigation, are handled properly and chain-of-custody procedures are followed;
- Being familiar with chemical agents and their health effects;
- Training on anticipated clinical sample flow and shipping regulations; and
- Working to develop a coordinated response plan for their respective state and jurisdiction.

Level 2 Laboratories

Forty-one labs also participate in Level 2 activities. At this level, laboratory personnel are trained to detect exposure to a limited number of toxic chemical agents in human blood or urine. Analysis of cyanide and toxic metals in human samples are examples of Level 2 laboratory activities.

Level 3 Laboratories

Five laboratories participate in Level 3 activities. At this level, personnel are trained to detect exposure to an expanded number of chemicals in human blood or urine, including all Level 2 laboratory analyses, plus analyses for mustard agents, nerve agents, and other toxic chemicals.

For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/lrn or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY).

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Page 1 of 1