

REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL SESSION PROPOSALS

Extended Deadline:
October 24, 2025

Share Your Knowledge and Expertise

Education proposals are being accepted for the APHL 2026 Annual Conference, celebrating APHL's 75th Anniversary! All proposals for educational sessions for the conference must be submitted through the proposal site. APHL is committed to providing needs-based education to support changes in knowledge, competence and performance to improve public health.

APHL membership and committees are invited to submit proposals for plenary, breakout and roundtable sessions. Attendees are from public health laboratories, governmental laboratories and other industry partners who wish to discuss issues relative to environmental health, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, informatics, food safety, newborn screening, global health, workforce development and other important laboratory topics.

APHL 2026 Sessions

This conference is an in-person only conference in Baltimore, MD. No sessions will be presented virtually or online. Some sessions will be recorded for viewing at a later time. The conference consists of a member assembly, keynote sessions, plenary and breakout sessions, roundtables, posters and exhibits. Tentatively there will be 6 plenary sessions with 1 per time slot, 6 breakout time slots with 3–4 sessions per time slot and 2 roundtable time slots with 4 sessions per time slot.

Plenary or breakout sessions should be targeted to the major participant groups of APHL (state or local public health laboratories and environmental, food or agricultural laboratories).

- Plenary sessions are 60-minute sessions
- Breakout sessions are 60-minute sessions that run concurrently with other sessions

Sessions generally have a moderator and 2–3 speakers. Panel discussions or other interactive/informational sessions generally addressing a specific issue, program or core public health function may be appropriate. In addition, we are challenging presenters to include evidence-based science and participant interaction in the sessions.

Roundtables are small, informal 60-minute moderator guided discussions concerning hot topics on laboratory issues. The topics are usually focused on a single topic to facilitate discussion and participant interaction. Each roundtable will occupy a room with banquet rounds, flip charts and basic AV.

Proposal Selection Process

The APHL 2026 Planning Committee will determine the plenary, breakout and roundtable sessions by choosing from proposals submitted by the general membership and APHL committees. APHL committee proposals must be prioritized as there are limited time slots.

Educational Topics of High Interest

Submitters are encouraged to focus on new knowledge, problems and solutions, and data. Sessions may focus on one topic area and highlight current challenges and problems. Submitters are not required to follow this suggestion. Educational topics of high interest include (but are not limited to):

Laboratory Operations and Administration

- *Laboratory automation*
- *Procurement*
- *Building laboratory systems or renovating/building BSL-3*
- *Building and sustaining infrastructure*
- *Human resource practices*
- *Budget and finance*

Environmental Health and Overdose Surveillance

- *Environmental testing technologies and practices*
- *Biomonitoring and chemical threats*
- *Wastewater surveillance*
- *Overdose surveillance — cannabis, opioids and controlled substances*
- *PFAS and emerging chemicals*

Food Safety

- *PFAS and emerging chemicals in food and water*
- *Food safety and defense*

Infectious Diseases

- *Vector-borne disease surveillance*
- *Surveillance, outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases*

Informatics

- *Data and analytics*
- *Informatics, LIMS, ITS, FHIR*
- *ETOR*

Newborn Screening and Genetics

Preparedness, Response, Biosafety and Biosecurity

- *Chemical threat response, radiochemistry*
- *Biosafety and biosecurity*
- *Pandemic preparedness, disease forecasting and emergency response*
- *Response to severe weather, floods, fire disasters*
- *Continuity of operations*

Quality and Regulatory Compliance

- *Regulatory science, compliance and investigations*
- *CLIA, FDA, ISO*

Advanced Molecular Detection and Bioinformatics

- *Next generation/long-read sequencing, metagenomics and bioinformatics*

Veterinary and Agricultural

- *Agricultural and veterinary testing technologies and practices*

Cross Cutting

- *Diagnostics and new detection technologies*
- *One Health approaches*
- *Education and outreach*
- *Workforce development*
- *APHL resources in action*

Proposal Submission

The submission process will be done online.

[Submit your proposal here](#)

(Follow the directions on the website.)

Proposals must be received by **Friday, October 24, 2025**.

Notification of the outcome will be made no later than Friday, November 20, 2025.

Direct all questions to the Conferences and Events Team at conferences@aphl.org.