

14th National Conference on
**Laboratory Aspects
of Tuberculosis**

March 10–12, 2026 | Atlanta, Georgia

Pit Stops and Tune Ups: Tools and Resources to Strengthen Your TB Testing Program

Session Overview



- 1 Resource Polling
- 2 *APHL Essentials for the Mycobacteriology Laboratory: Promoting Quality Practices Learning Modules*
- 3 *APHL Mycobacterium tuberculosis: Assessing Your Laboratory*
- 4 APHL Verification and Validation Toolkit
- 5 CDC – False Positive Investigation Toolkit
- 6 CDC – Continuity of Operations Plan Toolkit

Essentials for the Mycobacteriology Laboratory: Promoting Quality Practices

Online Learning Modules

Resource Highlight

- Free learning modules hosted on APHL's Learning Center
- Developed by APHL in collaboration with members and CDC and updated in 2025
- Promotes competency, quality and safety in the mycobacteriology laboratory
- Eligible for P.A.C.E.[®] continuing education credit (select modules)



Essentials for the Mycobacteriology Laboratory: Promoting Quality Practices

Free Training Series

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is excited to announce our newly updated TB Training Modules "Essentials for the Mycobacteriology Laboratory: Promoting Quality Practices" are now available on the APHL Learning Center.

The series includes thirteen interactive modules designed for laboratorians at all levels of experience but are useful for anyone interested in learning more about TB testing including clinical and program staff.

- Current best practices and information
- Updated recommendations, references and resources
- Certificates of completion are available for all modules
- 10 modules now eligible for continuing education credits (P.A.C.E.[®] credit)

The APHL Learning Center houses all of our TB Training Modules, including the newly updated TB 11 Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance module, which has undergone significant revisions to reflect advances in molecular detection technologies. Additionally, the Learning Center includes the Overview of Syphilis Diagnostics four-course series, including a Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Manual Test Methods module, the updated Etest[®] *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* module and many other training courses. The Learning Center tracks your course progress and allows you to complete training at your own pace. Many of the courses also offer P.A.C.E.[®] credit.

APHL Members Receive FREE Access

If accessing the APHL Learning Center (ALC) for the first time, create a free APHL Account. Once logged in, navigate to the Course Catalog to view and enroll in this or another course.

For assistance with creating an account or enrollment, send us an email alc@aphl.

Enroll in the series now!

Updated Modules

TB1	Overview of Tuberculosis	
TB2	Laboratory Safety: Work Practices for <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	
TB3	Specimen Collection, Transport, Handling, and Processing	✓
TB4	AFB Smear Microscopy	✓
TB5	Overview of Mycobacterial Culture, Identification and Drug Susceptibility Testing	
TB6	Mycobacterial Culture	✓
TB7	Identification of Mycobacteria	✓
TB8	Drug Susceptibility Testing for MTB Complex	✓
TB9	Molecular Biology 101	✓
TB10	Molecular Detection and Identification of Mycobacteria	✓
TB11	Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance - <i>Substantial updates made in this module</i>	✓
TB12	Landscape and Language of Molecular Diagnostics for TB Drug Resistance	✓
TB13	False-Positive Case Studies	✓



Intended Audience

- Designed primarily for laboratorians at all levels of experience
- Also useful for:
 - TB control program staff
 - Clinicians and nurses
 - Other staff interested in TB testing
- Self-paced, interactive modules with supporting references and resources
- Modules can be viewed as often as needed



New Online Course

Understanding Tuberculosis (TB) Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses

Free Training Course



The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is excited to announce a newly developed course, Understanding Tuberculosis Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses, now available on our website.



Understanding Tuberculosis (TB) Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses

This course will help participants better understand TB laboratory testing workflow, testing methods, and associated results. Being familiar with this information will aid effective and timely communication with the patient, clinician, and testing laboratory.

AUDIENCE

This course has been designed and developed for reported TB laboratory re-submitters.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, the participant will be able to:

- Summarize the importance of proper TB testing
- Understand a general TB testing workflow
- Define key terms for understanding TB testing
- Recall the expected turnaround time for TB testing reports



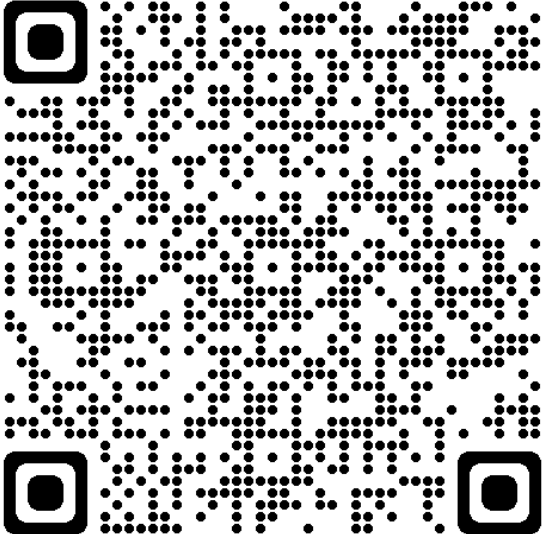
Access the course
<https://www.aphl.org/programs>

This course is temporarily available on the continuing education credit will be available upon completion.

APHL is approved as a provider of continuing education.

For more information about this course, please contact the CDC.

This course was reviewed by a team of TB care and laboratory experts from the CDC, the State University of New York at Albany, and the New York State Department of Health.



Modules that offer P.A.C.E.® credits

- TB3 – Specimen Collection, Transport, Handling and Processing
- TB4 – AFB Smear Microscopy
- TB6 – Mycobacterial Culture
- TB7 – Identification of Mycobacteria
- TB8 – Drug Susceptibility Testing for MTB Complex
- TB9 – Molecular Biology 101
- TB10 Molecular Detection and Identification of Mycobacteria
- TB11 – Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance
- TB12 – Landscape and Language of Molecular Diagnostics for TB Drug Resistance
- TB13 False-Positive Case Studies

Training and Competency Applications

- New staff training support
- Ongoing staff education
- Competency assessment support and documentation



Beyond the Modules: Live Discussion on Mycobacteriology Laboratory Practices

- Interactive webinar series
- Subject matter experts were available to answer attendee question on topics presented in the modules
- Well attended and participants reported they liked the professional but relaxed format



Free Training Watch Party Series
Beyond the Modules: Live Discussion on Mycobacteriology Laboratory Practices

In this webinar series, participants will engage with subject matter experts (SME) to discuss material and answer questions related to content in the TB series *Essentials for the Mycobacteriology Laboratory: Promoting Quality Practices*. Prior to each webinar participants should complete the required modules listed in the details of the webinar flyer.

Webinar 1: Discussion of TB Modules TB1 - TB4
Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 1:00–2:00 pm ET
[Enroll | Webinar Flyer](#)

Webinar 2: Discussion of TB Modules TB5 - TB7
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 1:00–2:00 pm ET
[Enroll | Webinar Flyer](#)

Webinar 3: Discussion of TB Modules TB8
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 | 1:00–2:00 pm ET
[Enroll | Webinar Flyer](#)

Webinar 4: Discussion of TB Modules TB9 - TB10
Thursday, October 30, 2025 | 1:00–2:00 pm ET
[Enroll | Webinar Flyer](#)

Webinar 5: Discussion of TB Module TB11
Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 1:00–2:00 pm ET
[Enroll | Webinar Flyer](#)

Enroll in Modules Here!

Individual enrollment is needed for each of the five webinars in this series. Please refer to the webinar flyer for specific enrollment links.

For information about the webinar series, email infectious.diseases@aphl.org

Join us for a chance to win!

Each watch party enrolled participant will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win an APHL sponsored registration to attend the **Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis Conference in 2026**

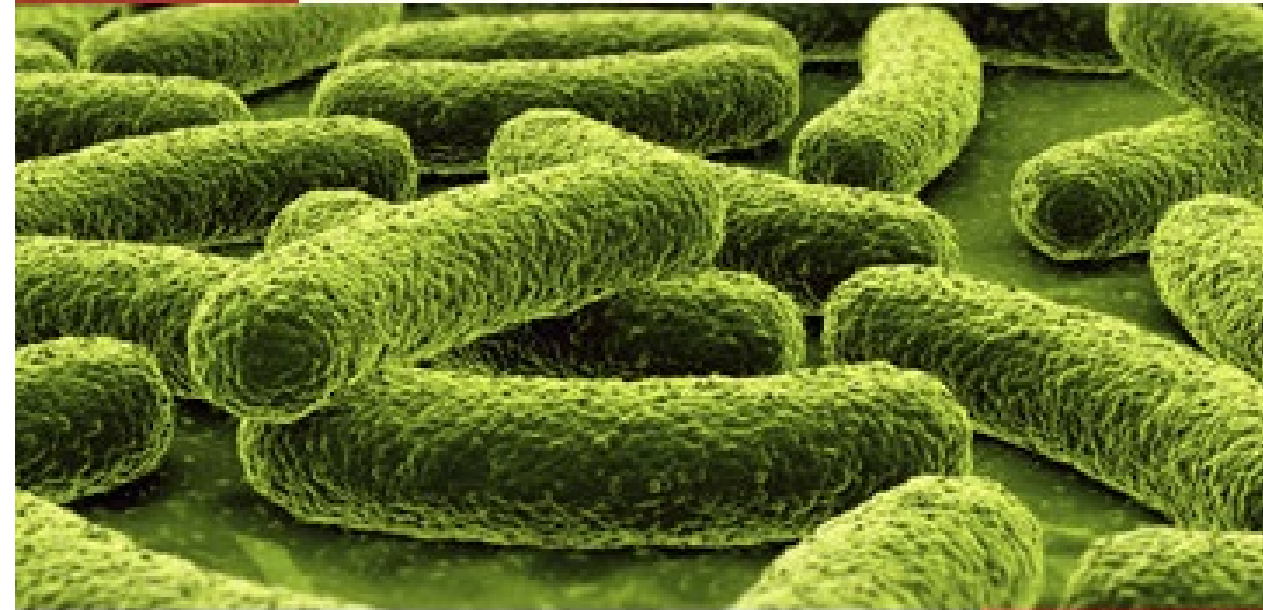
This webinar is NOT eligible for ASCLS P.A.C.E.® credits.

These webinars are supported by Cooperative Agreement # NU600E000104 from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC or the Department of Health and Human Services, or APHL and member laboratories. This project is 100% funded with federal funds.

Self-Assessment Tool

- Created to assist laboratories in assessing the quality of their TB diagnostic practices
- Laboratories are encouraged to incorporate this tool into their quality assurance practices to determine laboratory areas that may need improvement
- Intended for public health, clinical or commercial laboratories

Mycobacterium tuberculosis: Assessing Your Laboratory



APRIL 2019

Self-Assessment Tool

Specimen Collection and Handling

Safety

General Laboratory Practice

Smears from Clinical Specimens

Public Health and Epidemiology

Specimen Processing/Decontamination

Inoculation and Growth Detection

Susceptibility Testing

Direct Detection

- 96 questions: each question has an accompanying guidance section that contains information helpful to improving quality
- Answer each question with “Yes” “No” or “Not Applicable”
- **Red Questions** - "No" answer indicates a severe gap in safety or quality = suspend services until correction
- **Yellow Questions** – "No" answer indicates a gap in quality = immediate review/correction

VA Self-Assessment Tool Approach

Assigned to:	Questions:	Discussed at huddle:
Kat	1-5; 13-17	5/22/24
Raven	6-12	
Lara	18-23	6/5/24
Katelin	24-29	
Terri	30-38	
Rana	39-42	6/26/24
Kathleen	43-46	
Kat	47-49	
Raven	50-54	
Terri	55-58	7/3/24
Lara	59-63	
Katelin	64-78	7/17/24
Raven	79-86	
Lara	87-91	
Kat	92-96	

- Team activity (Element 2 for TB Elimination Grant)
- Divide questions between individuals
- Discuss answers and guidance section at a scheduled group huddle

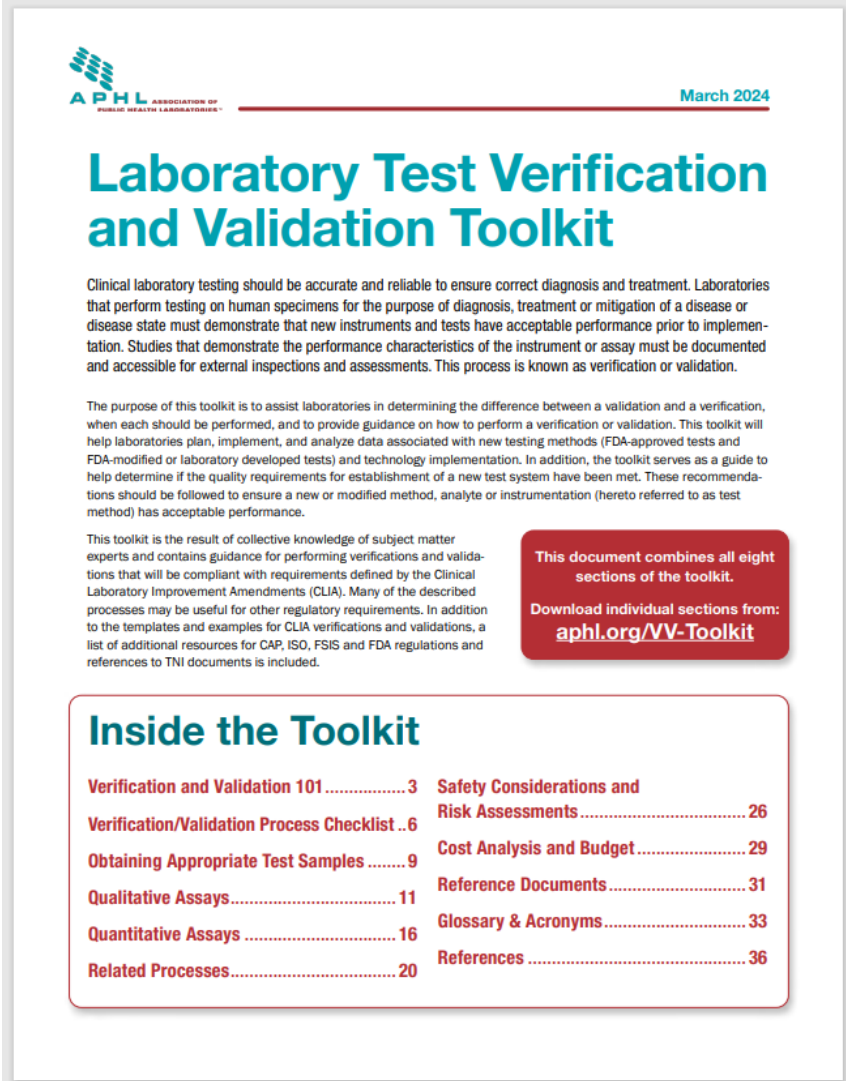
VA Self-Assessment Tool Approach

- Example questions for improvement:
 - Does your laboratory monitor the number of specimens collected per patient as part of its QA program?
 - Identifies collection problems that otherwise might go unnoticed
 - Helps to ensure 3 specimens per patient
 - Can review a certain number or percentage per week
 - Does your laboratory use TAT indicators to monitor the quality of performance of laboratories to which you refer specimens?
 - Tracks TAT from date of receipt to results reported to primary laboratory



Resource Highlight: Validation and Verification Toolkit

- Comprehensive resource on the APHL website with information, templates and examples of various aspects of validation and verification processes.
- 3 webinars in the APHL Learning Center can be viewed as in introduction to the resource:



The image shows the cover of the "Laboratory Test Verification and Validation Toolkit" document. At the top left is the APHL logo (Association of Public Health Laboratories) and at the top right is the date "March 2024". The title "Laboratory Test Verification and Validation Toolkit" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, teal font. Below the title, there is a paragraph of introductory text explaining the purpose of the toolkit. Further down, another paragraph provides more detail about the toolkit's content and its role in helping laboratories. A red-bordered box on the right side contains the text: "This document combines all eight sections of the toolkit. Download individual sections from: [aphl.org/VV-Toolkit](\"http://aphl.org/VV-Toolkit\")". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Inside the Toolkit" which lists the contents of the toolkit with page numbers.

APHL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

March 2024

Laboratory Test Verification and Validation Toolkit

Clinical laboratory testing should be accurate and reliable to ensure correct diagnosis and treatment. Laboratories that perform testing on human specimens for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment or mitigation of a disease or disease state must demonstrate that new instruments and tests have acceptable performance prior to implementation. Studies that demonstrate the performance characteristics of the instrument or assay must be documented and accessible for external inspections and assessments. This process is known as verification or validation.

The purpose of this toolkit is to assist laboratories in determining the difference between a validation and a verification, when each should be performed, and to provide guidance on how to perform a verification or validation. This toolkit will help laboratories plan, implement, and analyze data associated with new testing methods (FDA-approved tests and FDA-modified or laboratory developed tests) and technology implementation. In addition, the toolkit serves as a guide to help determine if the quality requirements for establishment of a new test system have been met. These recommendations should be followed to ensure a new or modified method, analyte or instrumentation (hereto referred to as test method) has acceptable performance.

This toolkit is the result of collective knowledge of subject matter experts and contains guidance for performing verifications and validations that will be compliant with requirements defined by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). Many of the described processes may be useful for other regulatory requirements. In addition to the templates and examples for CLIA verifications and validations, a list of additional resources for CAP, ISO, FSIS and FDA regulations and references to TNI documents is included.

This document combines all eight sections of the toolkit.

Download individual sections from: aphl.org/VV-Toolkit

Inside the Toolkit

Verification and Validation 101.....	3	Safety Considerations and Risk Assessments	26
Verification/Validation Process Checklist ..	6	Cost Analysis and Budget	29
Obtaining Appropriate Test Samples	9	Reference Documents	31
Qualitative Assays.....	11	Glossary & Acronyms	33
Quantitative Assays	16	References	36
Related Processes.....	20		

Resource Highlight: Validation and Verification Toolkit

Sections with particular relevance to Tuberculosis:

- Biological Risk Assessment for all New Assays Template
- Obtaining Appropriate Test Samples
- Cost Analysis and Budget
- Printable Checklist for the Verification or Validation Process
- Validation Plan Template

