What is a “Sentinel Laboratory?”

The responsibilities of a Sentinel Clinical Laboratory include:

- Provide satellites with directions and training
- Maintain ASM testing capabilities and participate in proficiencies
- Be familiar with your jurisdiction’s reportable disease guidelines
- Ensure a sufficient number of staff are trained for packaging & shipping infectious substances
- Collect and refer specimens to the nearest LRN reference lab
- Comply with safety practices as found in the BMBL
- Ensure biosafety risk assessments are performed as part of the quality management program
- Utilize a Class II Biosafety cabinet for suspected biothreat agents or when there is a risk of aerosolization

Read the full definition here: [APHL Sentinel Lab Definition](#)

### Bioterrorism Lab Stats:

**September 2017 to October 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BT Specimens Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
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### Positive Specimens vs. Negative Specimens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. anthracis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F. tularensis</td>
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**MALDI-TOF Now Available at the NDDoH Microbiology Lab**

MALDI-TOF (matrix assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight) has been gaining popularity in microbiology labs for several years, and it is now available at the NDDoH Microbiology Laboratory. MALDI-TOF is a technique that measures the unique molecular fingerprint of an organism, then matches that molecular pattern to a database for identification. There are many advantages, including the identification of organisms that are difficult to ID with traditional biochemicals. Some disadvantages of using MALDI-TOF for identification include that the organism must be included in the database that you are using and that some organisms will only be identified to the genus level.

MALDI-TOF should always be used in conjunction with phenotypic, molecular or other laboratory testing such as Gram staining, colony morphology, growth characteristics, and sample type.