

What Is a Public Health Laboratory (1:13)

PRODUCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES (APHL)

Male Narrator: Ever wonder who identifies health threats, to keep your world safe and healthy?

It's the laboratorians and public health laboratories across the country. As part of the public health system, these governmental labs help to keep your communities healthy. And they play a bigger role in your life than you may have guessed.

Starting with newborn screenings that identify dangerous genetic and metabolic disorders that can cause disabilities or even death early enough to treat them.

Laboratorians are disease detectives working tirelessly to prevent outbreaks by monitoring communities for pathogens that spread through contact with people or your environment and testing to protect you from foodborne illnesses.

Public health labs test drinking and some recreational water for bacteria, parasites, pesticides, and other harmful substances, all as a part of a coordinated health system effort to have fewer sick people, and ultimately, a more comfortable environment to live in.

You may not have heard about them, but in one way or another, their work has affected your life, and that of every American. Learn more about how public health laboratories protect your health at APHL.org.

(End: 1:13)