

Hands-on BT Workshop 2019

Preparations for the upcoming hands-on BT workshop are underway. The dates of the workshop are February 20 and 21, 2019. Each day will have two sessions to choose from: 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Registration for the workshop will take place on the TRAIN website; participants will need to complete a prerequisite course in order to attend the workshop. Upon completion of all course requirements, 4.0 PACE credits will be awarded.



Pertussis in North Dakota

The North Dakota Department of Health reported an increase in pertussis cases in 2018. The largest increase was noted in Ward County.

The NDDoH Division of Microbiology implemented a new assay on December 21, 2018 that will test for both *Bordetella pertussis* and *Bordetella parapertussis*. With the new testing, the collection of specimens for pertussis testing has changed.

For *Bordetella* species testing, submit a nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media. Specimens are stable for two days at ambient temperatures and four days refrigerated. If transport will be greater than four days, send the specimen frozen. To order collection kits, submit a [laboratory supply request](#) and request pertussis transport kits.

Biosafety Box: Clean up and Clean out

It's a new year, start it out by taking the opportunity to perform a clean up and clean out of your laboratory space:

- Decontaminate and dispose of unused laboratory equipment
- Take inventory of your refrigerators and freezers—discard any unused biological stock
- Properly dispose of unused or outdated chemicals and reagents
- Remove clutter and trash from the laboratory

Awards and Recognition

2018 was a great year for the NDDoH, Division of Microbiology:

- In June, the Microbiology lab received the Association of Public Health Laboratory's "Healthiest Laboratory" award. The award emphasizes workplace activities related to promoting employee health and good environmental practices.
- In September, the Microbiology lab won first place in the Laboratory Response Network's video contest for "Smells Like Biosafety." The video can be viewed [here](#).

Division of Microbiology

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