

CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Program

Strengthening America's Defenses Against Infectious Diseases

Since 1995, **CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC)** program has been the nation's cornerstone for detecting, responding to, and preventing infectious diseases.

ELC provides **direct funding and technical support** to health departments in all 50 states, several large local jurisdictions, and U.S. territories. This support builds long lasting capacity for **public health data systems, laboratories, surveillance, and an expert workforce** — ensuring readiness today and for future threats.



Why ELC Matters

- **Protects Communities:** Early detection stops outbreaks before they spread.
- **Saves Lives & Money:** Prevention avoids costly hospitalizations and economic disruptions.
- **Reaches Nationwide:** Every U.S. resident benefits from ELC-funded systems and disease detective staff in their state or territory.
- **Prepares for the Future:** Builds readiness for new and emerging disease threats.



Improved Capacity of Health Departments

- **Strengthening Labs:** Expanding diagnostic and sequencing capacity.
- **Modernizing Data:** Building and maintaining real-time, interoperable electronic systems.
- **Surveillance:** Tracking infectious diseases, such as respiratory illnesses, foodborne pathogens and antimicrobial resistance.
- **Rapid Response:** Funding and staff to respond quickly to outbreaks.
- **Workforce Development:** Training epidemiologists, laboratorians, and data scientists.



U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

www.cdc.gov/elc

ELC In Action

Protecting Americans from Infectious Disease Threats



Building Workforce Capacity in Kentucky

With ELC support, Kentucky created two new roles to strengthen lab and epidemiology collaboration, leading to faster outbreak detection, new investigation tools, and improved response to threats like RSV, scabies, and enteric diseases.

Uncovering a Histoplasmosis Outbreak in Louisiana

ELC-supported epidemiologists investigated a Boy Scout camping trip where multiple youths were hospitalized, pinpointing soil disruption during geocaching as the source of histoplasmosis and stopping further spread through swift public health action.

Mounting a Legionellosis Response in New Hampshire

When seven Legionellosis cases were linked to a contaminated cooling tower, ELC-trained staff coordinated a rapid response, managed public communication, and confirmed remediation, marking the state's first investigation of its kind.

Swift Action Prevents Hepatitis A Outbreak in New York City

When a New York City restaurant worker tested positive for hepatitis A, ELC-funded staff quickly identified exposed individuals and set up an on-site clinic, providing post-exposure protection to nearly 100 people and preventing a wider outbreak.



ELC By the Numbers

\$270 million invested in 2025 in 65 jurisdictions (states, large localities, territories).

30,000+ of highly trained epidemiologists and laboratorians supported

10,000+ infectious disease outbreaks investigated by ELC-funded staff annually

Billions of dollars invested since 1995 in U.S. preparedness

Looking Ahead

ELC is preparing for tomorrow's challenges by:

- Expanding **data modernization** and real-time data integration for national reporting.
- Training the **next generation of public health professionals**.
- Building **sustainable partnerships** with communities.
- Ensuring every state and territory can detect, respond to, and contain emerging threats.

Continued investment in CDC's ELC program keeps our nation ready to respond, our health systems resilient, and our communities safe.