

# Strengthening Tribal COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Capacity

Tuesday, July 28, 4:00 pm ET

Call-in Line

1-877-668-4493

Access code: 160 968 8861#

# National Indian Health Board

Mission Statement: Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.



# Webinar Agenda

- Performance/ System Improvement and Public Health Accreditation Overview
- Connecting the PHAB Standards and Measures to Emergency Laboratory Response during COVID-19
  - *David Stone (Public Health Accreditation Board)*
- Panel Discussion: Strengthening Relationships between Laboratories and Tribal Public Health Agencies
  - *Jaime Clark and Laura Sawney (Osage Nation Health Services)*
  - *Apryl Krause (Pascua Yaqui Health Services)*
  - *Cory Littlepage (Tribal Diagnostics)*



# What is Performance/System Improvement

Efforts to create changes in public health capacity, processes, or outcomes.

- PI: Focus is on internal changes to improve public health services.
- SI: Focus is on incorporating health equity and interconnection of various systems that can impact the public health of a community.



# What is Public Health Accreditation?

- Measurement of Tribal, state and local health department performance based on a set of national standards
- Issuance of recognition of achievement by a nationally recognized entity
- Supports continuous quality improvement in public health performance





- Focus is on **population health**
- What “we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy” (Institute of Medicine, 1988).



- Focus is on **individual health**
- The maintenance and improvement of physical and mental health, especially through the provision of medical services.

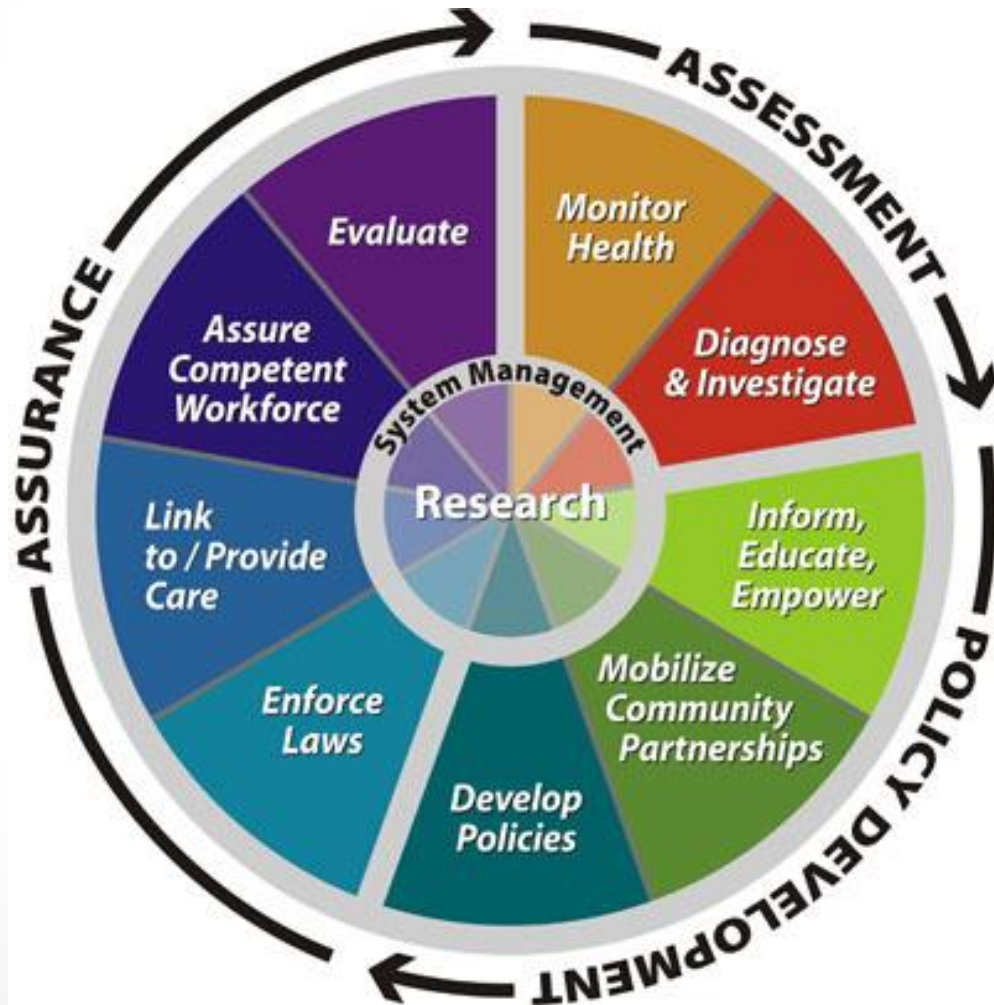


# Public Health vs. Healthcare Accreditation





# 10 Essential Services of Public Health



12 PHAB Domains of PH Accreditation align with 10ES model





# Twelve Domains of Standards

**Domain 1:** Conduct assessments focused on population health status and health issues facing the community

**Domain 2:** Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community

**Domain 3:** Inform and educate about public health issues and functions

**Domain 4:** Engage with the community to identify and solve health problems

**Domain 5:** Develop public health policies and plans

**Domain 6:** Enforce public health laws and regulations

**Domain 7:** Promote strategies to improve access to healthcare services

**Domain 8:** Maintain a competent public health workforce

**Domain 9:** Evaluate and continuously improve processes, programs, and interventions

**Domain 10:** Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

**Domain 11:** Maintain administrative and management capacity

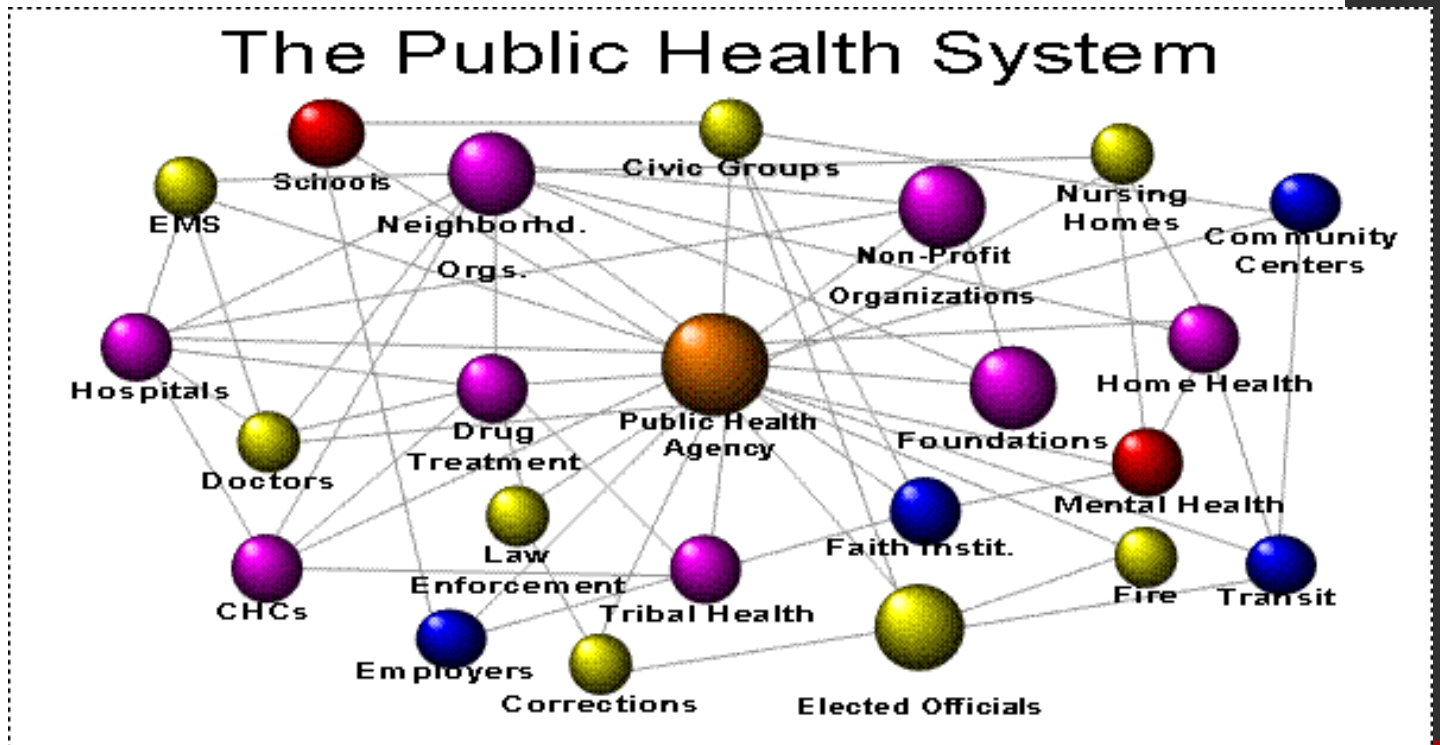
**Domain 12:** Build a strong and effective relationship with governing entity



# Challenges – Complexity of Tribal PH Systems



- IHS
  - Contract some services
  - Compact all IHS services
  - Direct service Tribes
- Local, county, state HDs
- Other Tribal organizations
- Urban
- Non-profit orgs

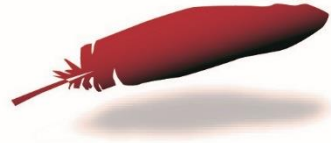


# How does this relate to COVID-19?

- Strong PH systems have the infrastructure to respond to PH challenges more effectively
- Adaptable systems can work with partners make changes and improve their response
- PHAB offers guidelines for a strong Tribal-laboratory relationship, which is key for disease surveillance



# National Indian Health Board



David Stone (Public Health Accreditation Board)

**CONNECTING THE PHAB STANDARDS AND  
MEASURES TO EMERGENCY LABORATORY  
RESPONSE DURING COVID-19**

Connecting the PHAB  
Standards and Measures to  
Emergency Laboratory  
Response during COVID-19

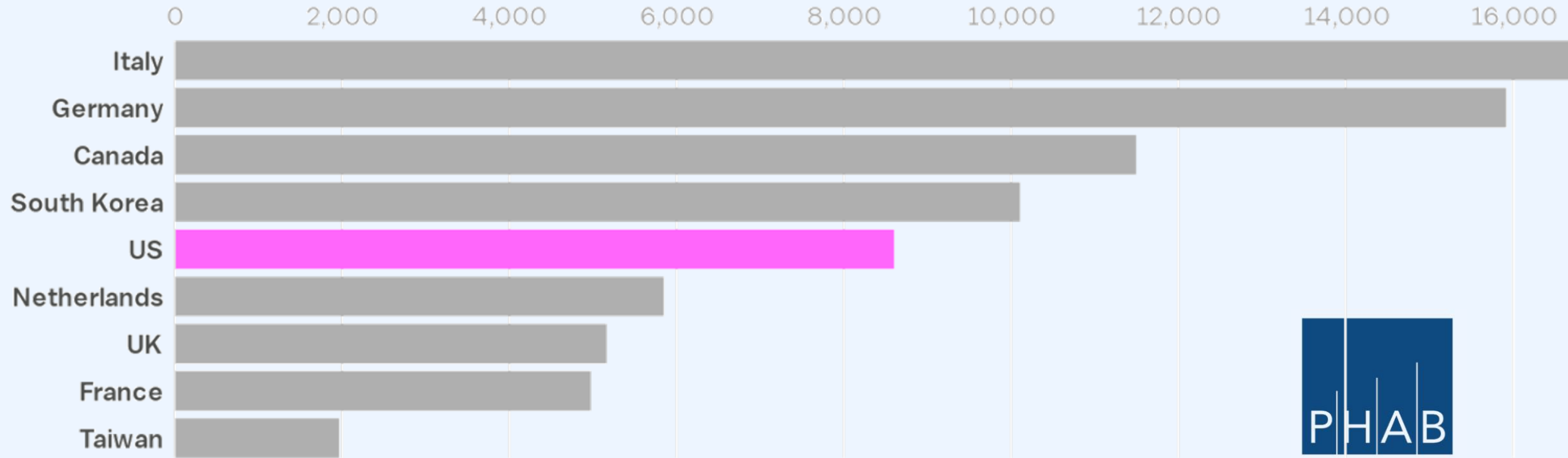


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performance*





# How the US compares to other countries in coronavirus tests conducted per million people



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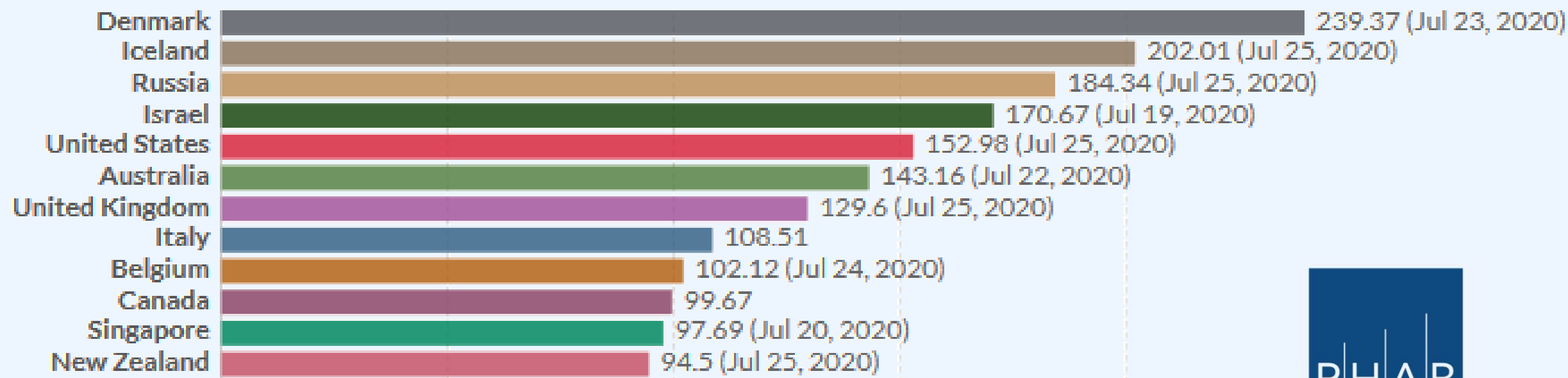
Source: COVID Tracking Project, news reports, government websites; updated April 13 with latest available numbers.



# Total COVID-19 tests per 1,000 people, Jul 26, 2020

The most recent figures for selection of countries is shown (you can change the selection using '+ Add country').

Only data relating to the the last 10 days are included.





## ***The Lost Month: How a Failure to Test Blinded the U.S. to Covid-19***

Aggressive screening might have helped contain the coronavirus in the United States. But technical flaws, regulatory hurdles and lapses in leadership let it spread undetected for weeks.

# WHY WIDESPREAD CORONAVIRUS TESTING ISN'T COMING ANYTIME SOON



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*A critical shortage of swabs and other testing components is, in many cases, making it impossible for labs across the country to expand their capacity. Photograph by Ted S. Warren / AP*



[WEBMD HEALTH NEWS]

# COVID-19 Testing Hits Second Wall: Lack of Supplies

By Brenda Goodman, MA, Christine Lehmann, MA

March 30, 2020 -- On March 19, emergency management officials in Nashville gave reporters a glimpse of new drive-thru testing sites for COVID-19 that were expected to greatly expand the city's ability to check sick residents for the deadly coronavirus, which is plowing through the U.S. and has crippled the economy.



Coronavirus Outbreak 2020

PHAR  
CORONAVIRUS HOME

Full Coverage of the  
COVID-19 Outbreak  
performance



Investigations

# Inside the coronavirus testing failure: Alarm and dismay among the scientists who sought to help

*The Washington Post*



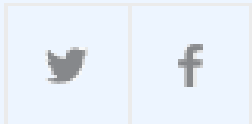
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04/03/2020

# The U.S. has more COVID-19 testing than most. So why is it falling so short?

Allison Martell, Ned Parker

9 MIN READ



(Reuters) - The United States might have more COVID-19 testing capacity than any other country. So why have we seen laboratories overwhelmed and many patients again waiting a week or more for results?





# Coronavirus Test (COVID-19)

\$119


★★★★★ Trustpilot

In Stock • Free Shipping

FDA authorised home test for SARS-CoV-2.

- ✓ A gentle lower nasal swab
- ✓ Accurate PCR lab analysis [Learn more](#)
- ✓ Online results, typically within 24-72 hours after reaching the lab [Learn more](#)
- ✓ Official lab report provided

[Start assessment](#)

 FSA & HSA cards accepted. Itemized receipts supplied for reimbursement. [Learn more](#)



Promotional discounts don't apply to this test





Public Health Accreditation Board

# STANDARDS & Measures

VERSION 1.5  
Adopted December 2013

## Public Health Accreditation Board



### Supplemental Process and Documentation Guidance for Tribal Public Health Department Accreditation

Approved February 2018

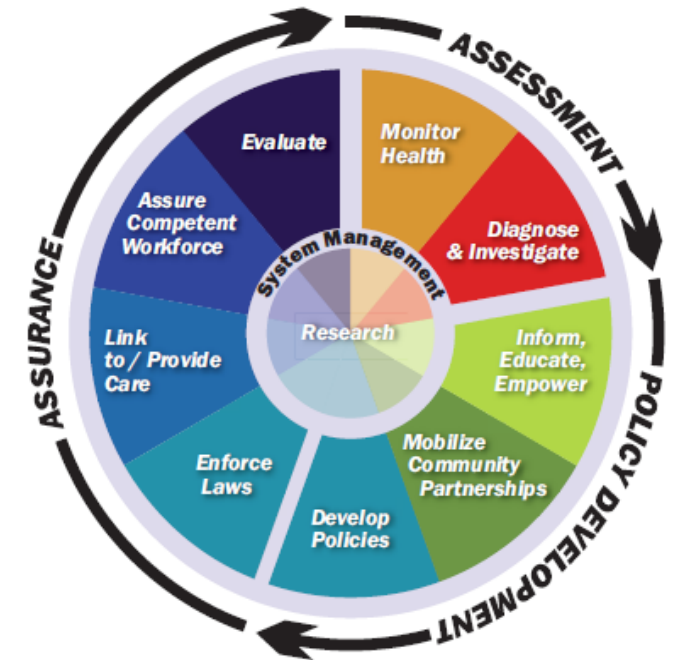
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# Applicability of Public Health Accreditation Standards

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is charged with administering the national public health department accreditation program. To that end, PHAB's scope of accreditation extends only to governmental public health departments operated by Tribes, states, local jurisdictions, and territories.

PHAB's public health department accreditation standards address the array of public health functions set forth in the ten Essential Public Health Services. Public health department accreditation standards address a range of core public health programs and activities including, for example, environmental public health, health education, health promotion, community health, chronic disease prevention and control, infectious disease, injury prevention, maternal and child health, public health emergency preparedness, access to clinical services, public health laboratory services, vital records and health statistics, management /administration, and governance. Thus, public health department accreditation gives reasonable assurance of the range of public health services that a health department should provide. The standards refer to this broad range of work as health department processes, programs, and interventions.

While some public health departments provide mental health, substance abuse, primary care, human services, and social services (including domestic violence), these activities are not considered core public health services under the ten Essential Public Health Services framework used for accreditation purposes. PHAB's scope of accreditation authority does not extend to these areas. Documentation from these program areas generally will not be accepted for public health department accreditation. Similarly, documentation from health care facilities and professional licensing programs and the administration of health care financing systems (e.g., Medicaid) cannot



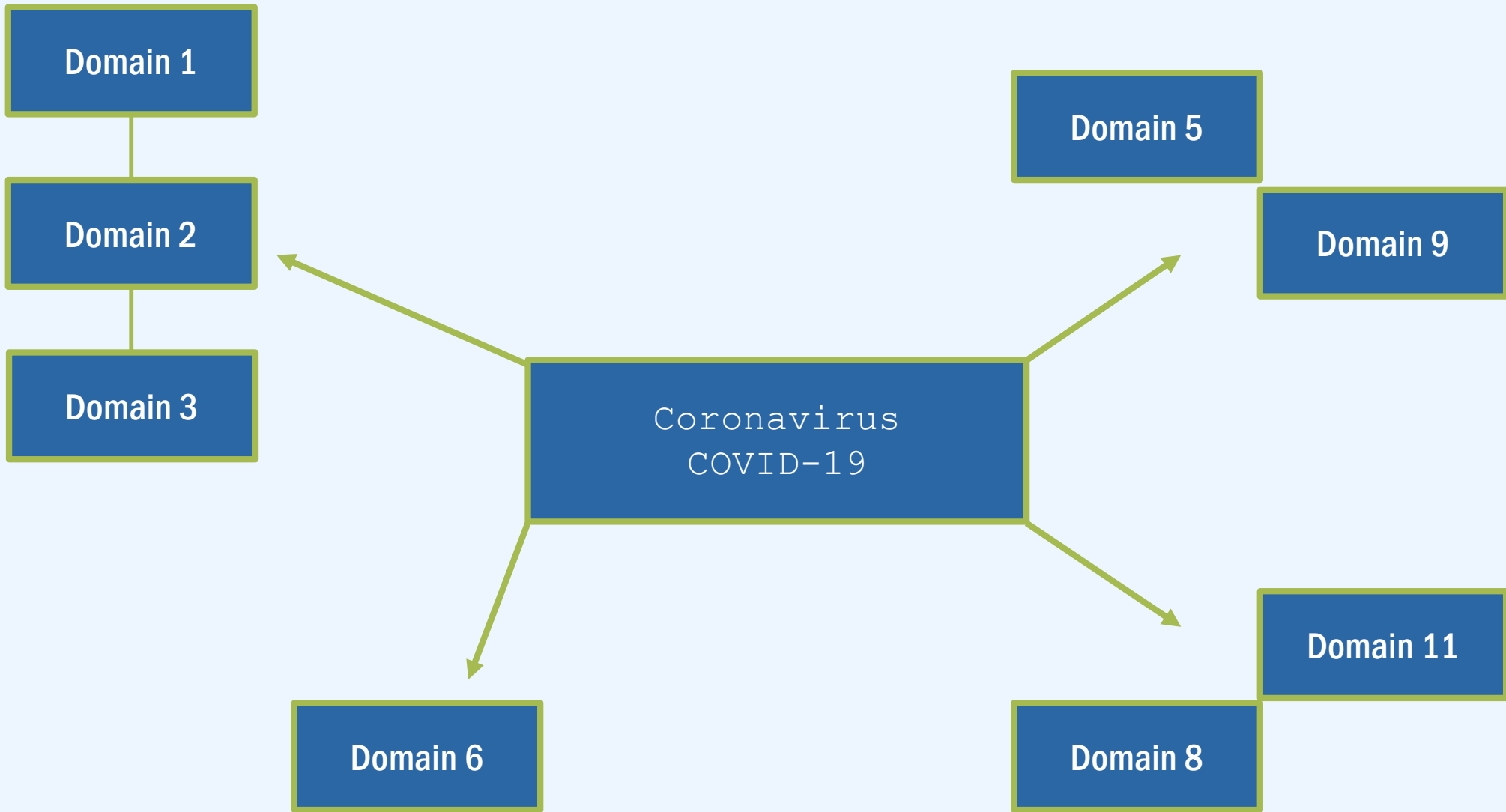
The Essential Public Health Services and Core Functions  
Source: Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee, Fall 1994

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PHAB recognizes that some Tribal health departments are embedded within the Tribe's overall health care system. In these cases, the Tribe will want to be sure to select only those programs that are provided for the protection and promotion of health for the broader community or population for which the Tribal health department is responsible. (See the PHAB guidance one-page tip sheet on **Accepted Program Areas for PHAB Documentation** at [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org)).

# Public Health Laboratory

A public health laboratory is a scientific research facility that, in collaboration with the public health system, provides clinical diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, environmental and radiological testing, emergency response support, applied research, laboratory training and other essential services to the communities they serve.





# Laboratory Measures

**1.3.2 S/L/T**

**2.2.1**

**2.1.4**

**Std 2.3**

**2.1.5**

**Std 8.1**

**2.1.6 S**

**11.1.7**

# What labs are we talking about?

**All that you work with!**

**Tribal Health Department Labs**

**Hospital and Other Providers**

**State Lab of Public Health**

**Reference Laboratories**

**PHAB's intent – that the THD has laboratory services available to fulfill the needs of the community and to meet the measure requirements.**



# Domain 5

**5.4.1 A - All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan**

**5.4.2 A - Public Health Emergency Operations Plan**



# Domain 2 – Standard 2.1

## **2.1.4 RD 3 - Laboratory testing for notifiable/reportable diseases**

**A list of labs that provides testing**

## **2.1.5 RD 1 - Tracking log or audit of...laboratory tests reports...with actual timelines noted**

## **2.1.6 S – Consultation to Tribal Health Departments – laboratory included**

# Domain 2 – Standard 2.2

**2.2.1 RD 1 - Protocol(s) that address containment/mitigation of public health problems and environmental public health hazards**

**protocols must address communication with the public health laboratory**

# Domain 2 – Standard 2.3

**Ensure access to laboratory and epidemiological/environmental public health expertise and capacity to investigate and contain/mitigate public health problems and environmental public health hazards.**

# Standard 2.3 – Measure

## 2.3.2 A

**24/7 access to laboratory resources capable of providing rapid detection, investigation and containment of health problems and environmental public health hazards**

- 1. Laboratory certification**
- 2. Policies and procedures ensuring 24/7 coverage**
- 3. Protocols for the health department's handling and submitting of specimens**



# Standard 2.3 – Measure

## 2.3.3 A

**Access to laboratory and other support personnel and infrastructure capable of providing surge capacity**

# Domain 11

## 11.1.7 A

### RD 1 - Licenses for laboratory

**Guidance - The health department must provide copies of licenses to meet national or state requirements appropriate for the laboratory services provided. Access to a laboratory that has Select Agent certification is required.**



# Domains 1 & 3

**Measure 1.3.2 T – Public health data provided to the Tribal community on a variety of public health issues**

*‘on one or more specific public health issues’*

**Measure 3.2.4 A – Risk communication plan**

*addresses ‘how information is provided for a given situation’*

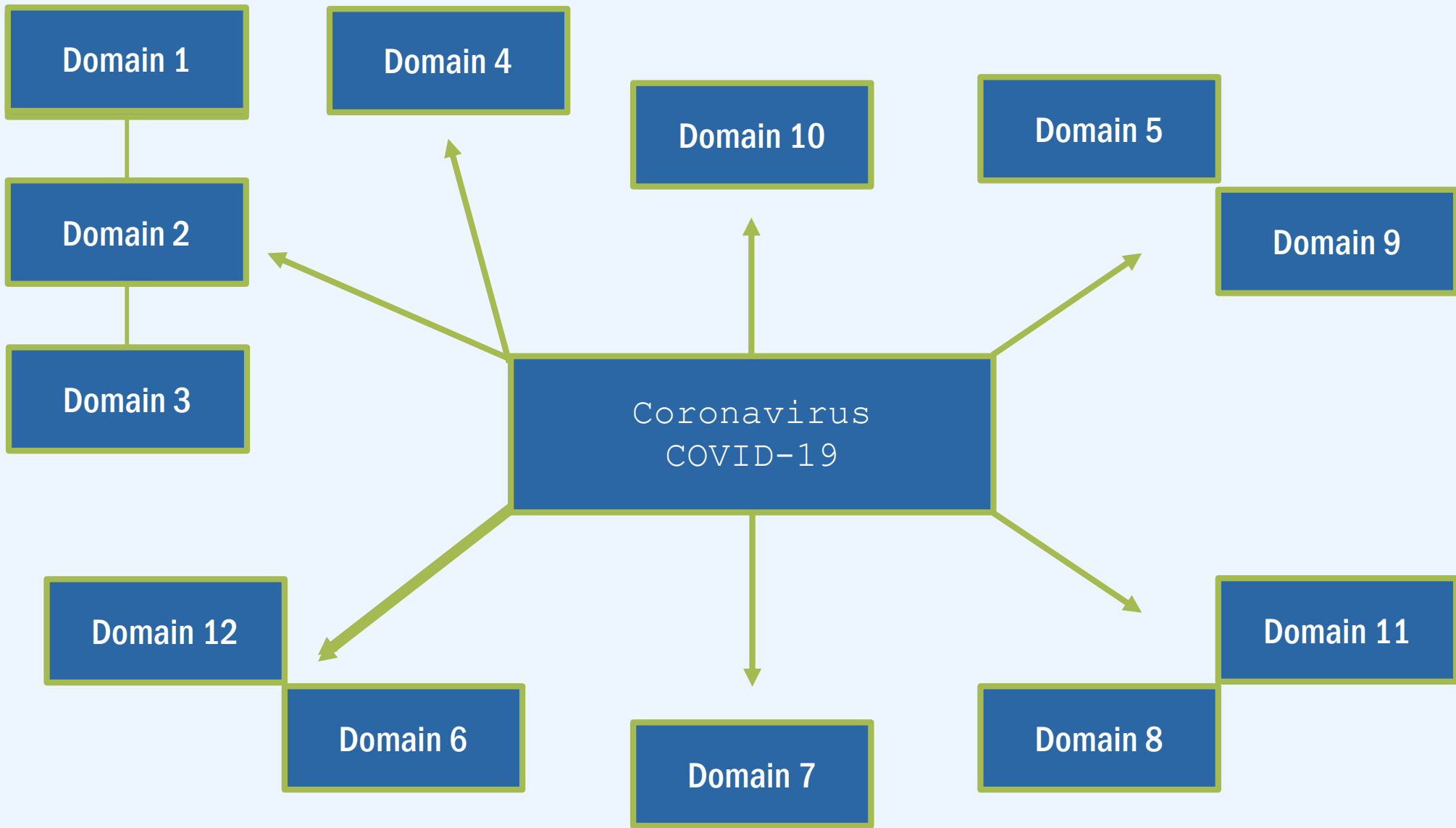
# Domains 8 & 6

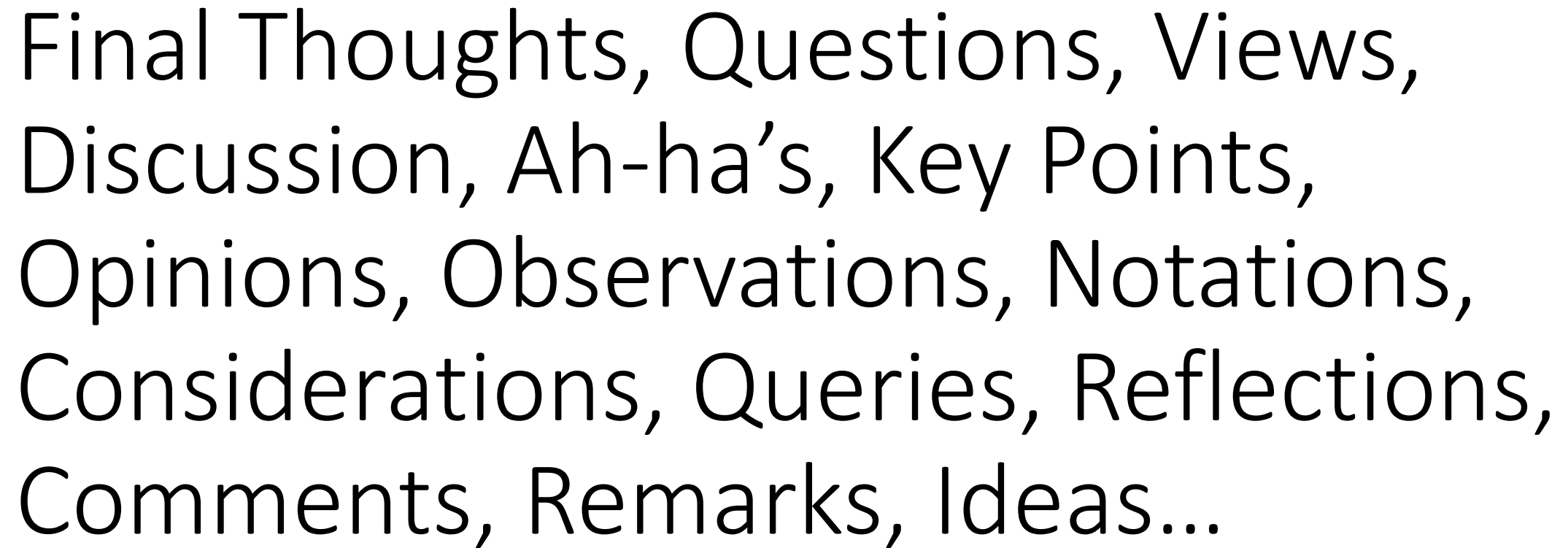
**Std 8.1** Trained and competent workers are needed in such diverse areas as ...public health laboratory science...

**8.1.1 S** promote public health career choices

**8.2.2 A** position descriptions

**Domain 6** Enforce Public Health Laws





Final Thoughts, Questions, Views,  
Discussion, Ah-ha's, Key Points,  
Opinions, Observations, Notations,  
Considerations, Queries, Reflections,  
Comments, Remarks, Ideas...



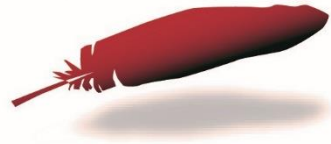
# Give me a call! Drop me an email!

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# National Indian Health Board



Jaime Clark and Laura Sawney, Osage Nation Health  
Services

Apryl Krause, Pascua Yaqui Health Services

Cory Littlepage, Tribal Diagnostics

**PANEL DISCUSSION: STRENGTHENING  
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LABORATORIES  
AND TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES**

# Panel Discussion

Prior to COVID, what services did Tribes use laboratories for?



# Panel Discussion

When COVID-19 started, how did the relationship between Tribes and labs change?

Photo Credit: HHS



# Panel Discussion

Is there any room for improvement in the PHAB Standards and Measures that would have been helpful when responding to COVID-19?



# Panel Discussion

What are the top two things you really learned from the experience of responding to COVID-19?





# Panel Discussion

What do you still need to do to further strengthen the ability of Tribes and labs to respond to future public health challenges?



# Q & A

Please “raise your hand” to have your line unmuted, or type your question into the chat box.



# THANK YOU

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