

WWW.NPHLWEB.UNMC.EDU

by Jeff Gehring, M.T. (ASCP)

The Department of Health and Human Services System and the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory have completed the development of a new version of the webbased information system called the Public Health Information Program (PHLIP). The first version of PHLIP was implemented statewide for use by the Nebraska Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program in 1999. Experience gained with version 1 allowed the development of multiple new features and capabilities. PHLIP is web base computer link that allows program users across the state to order tests online. Further, it allows authorized personnel to view the individual results. The ability to order and view results online provides numerous opportunities and efficiencies for public health users. More importantly, the systems stores individual client demographics and allows this information to be automatically recalled and entered into any new test orders. This function allows for the elimination of many labor intensive steps that are typical of paper order systems. The new version also includes the capability to assist in the preparation of mailing specimens to the laboratory and the replacement of hand-written requisitions. A number of the users who have worked with the beta version of the new PHLIP have also noted the value of being able to track the location of the specimen as it moves through the system. Therefore, programs will be able to follow test specimens and know when results will be available and subsequently print out these results online without having to wait for a printed report to appear in the mail. The availability of results online also ensures that no results will be missing when the client returns for an office visit. Program administrators will have greater functionality for data analysis such as ability to create specialized reports. The NPHL and all the people involved in the development of the new version extend their thanks to our partners within NHHSS as well as various private and public health program users across the state. Without their help, we would not have been able to optimize all of the various features of the new PHLIP system through development, testing and implementation. Together, Nebraska is able to play a leading role in developing web base public health communication systems.