

NPHL Updates

By Steven Hinrichs, M.D., Director, NPHL

The NPHL staff have been involved in a wide variety of activities over the past three months and several of their projects are highlighted in this issue. The activities range from new testing procedures for investigating infections with tuberculosis to a CDC sponsored training activity in the Far-East. We have summarized key information about another organism recently added to the Infectious Diseases Society of America's list of dangerous bugs. From the Chemical Terrorism Preparedness Laboratory, an overview of arsenic is provided to give you information on an issue that will be appearing in the news following a change in EPA regulations about the maximal contamination level of arsenic in drinking water. The Nebraska Laboratory Network- of which you all play an important role has also been busy adjusting to new regulations and documents for processing select agents as described in the article by Pete Iwen, Associate Director of the NPHL. In addition to these articles, we have created a new "Hot Topics" section in this issue to provide you with a quick update on important topics such as the Mumps virus outbreak that hit the state this past winter and fall, alerts about West Nile Virus, Select Agents, activities within the Nebraska LRN, and STATPack project. Through all of these activities in collaboration with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System as well as laboratorians in the Nebraska Laboratory Network we are collectively working to enhance the effectiveness of all public health efforts. We again thank you for your participation and support.