



# INTEGRATED CONSORTIUM OF LABORATORY NETWORKS (ICLN)





# MISSION

**Provide for a federally coordinated and interoperable system of laboratory networks that provide timely, credible, and interpretable data in support of surveillance, early detection and effective consequence management for incidents requiring CBRN laboratory response capabilities.**



**Memorandum of Understanding signed by all ICLN Member Agencies**



# PARTNERS

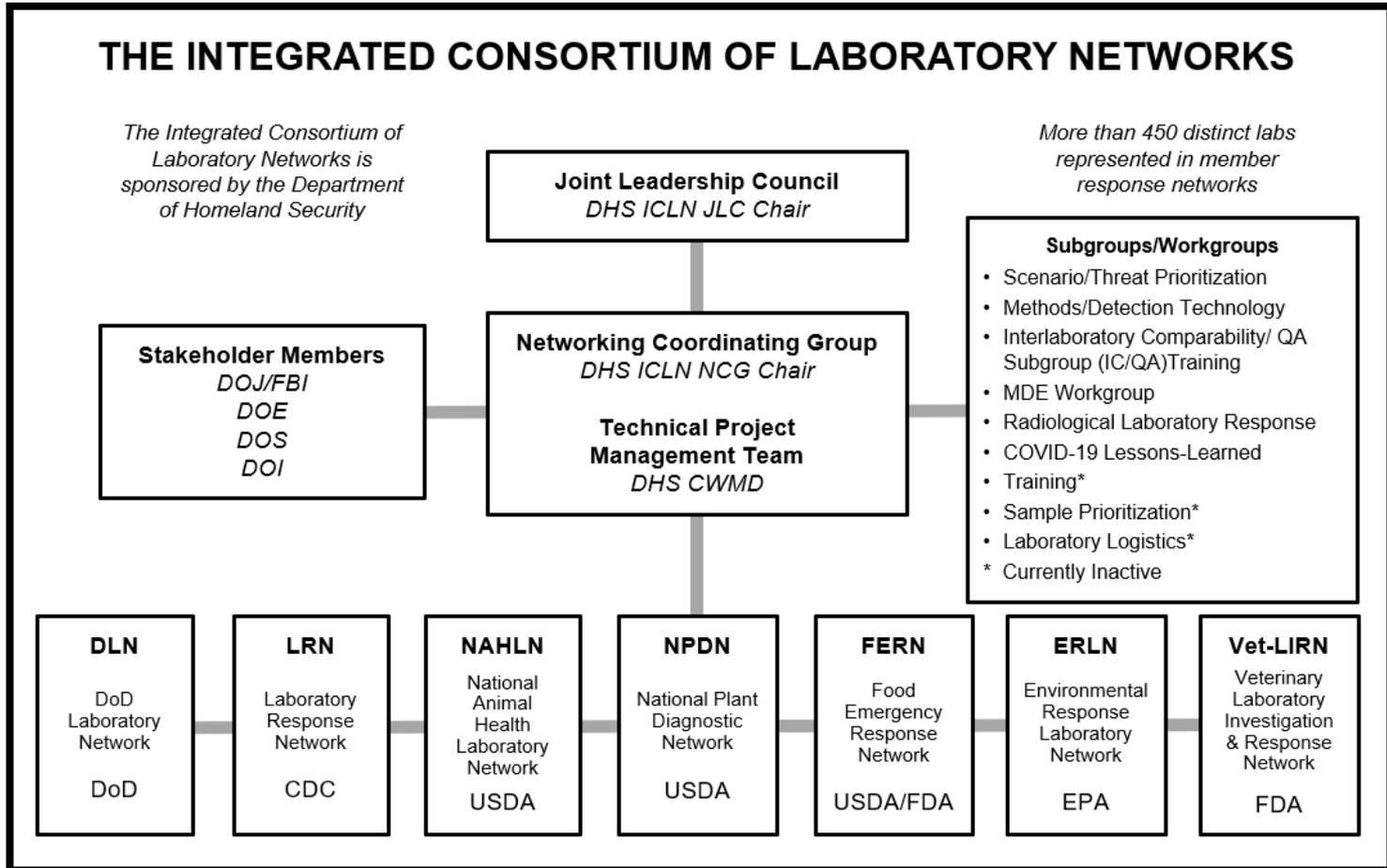


# **SIGNATORY AGENCIES OF THE ICLN**

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
- **U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)**
- **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
- **U.S. Department of Interior (DoI)**
- **U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ)**
- **U.S. Department of State (DoS)**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**



# ICLN STRUCTURE





# ICLN NETWORK FOCUS

Network Name	Primary Network Focus
<b>DLN:</b> DoD Laboratory Network; Agency: DoD	Human clinical, animal (e.g., zoonotic surveillance), vector-borne (e.g., mosquito and tick surveillance), environmental, and food matrices of the military
<b>ERLN:</b> Environmental Response Laboratory Network; Agency: EPA	Environmental matrices
<b>FERN:</b> Food Emergency Response Network; Agencies: HHS/FDA and USDA/FSIS	Food consumed by humans and animal feeds
<b>LRN:</b> Laboratory Response Network; Agencies: HHS/CDC	Clinical specimens as well as environmental, water, and food samples
<b>NAHLN:</b> National Animal Health Laboratory Network; Agency: USDA	Animal clinical/live animals in the field
<b>NPDN:</b> National Plant Diagnostic Network; Agency: USDA	Plants/crops in the field
<b>Vet-LIRN:</b> Veterinary Laboratory Investigation & Response Network; Agencies: HHS/FDA	Regulatory compliance and safety of animal feeds and veterinary drugs by testing animal diagnostic samples



# ICLN TOOLS

- **Portal:** A secure, password-protected web portal that can be used by member networks on a day to day basis as well as during an incident.
- **Data Exchange Utility:** A secure online system that supports the exchange of laboratory results data, in an agreed-upon standardized ICLN format, among participant networks in a joint response action.
- **Combined Registry:** A password-protected database that houses the Methods Registry, network proficiency testing data and schedules, and the training calendar.
- **Standard Operating Procedure/Key Process Steps Checklist:** Provides guidance on how to request assistance for capability/capacity support from fellow networks; describes the processes/procedures to communicate about ongoing incidents/events; simplifies data reporting between network program offices; and assists with returning resources back to their home network.



# ICLN PORTAL

## External Portal

## Internal Portal (Password-Protected)

Home

### The Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks

The Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) coordinates federally sponsored analytical laboratory services for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents. The ICLN does this through planning, identifying resources, providing laboratory surge capacity support, and defining key process steps for information exchange and data sharing during an incident.

**About**

**Structure & Members**

**Ask ICLN**

### Resources

The Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) provides resources in the form of subgroups, webinar, and trainings.

**Subgroups**

**Webinar**

**Training**

ICLN

**Dashboard**

- Incidents
- Meetings
- Messages **575**
- Calendar
- SecureSend
- Directory
- Support

**Welcome to ICLN**  
Where should we start today?

- Active Incidents**  
Review list of incidents that you may access.  
[List Now](#)
- Register Incident**  
To register an incident, begin here.  
[Start Now](#)
- Combined Registry**  
Access to methods registry to search, find, and access data.  
[Review](#)

### Incidents (Exercises)

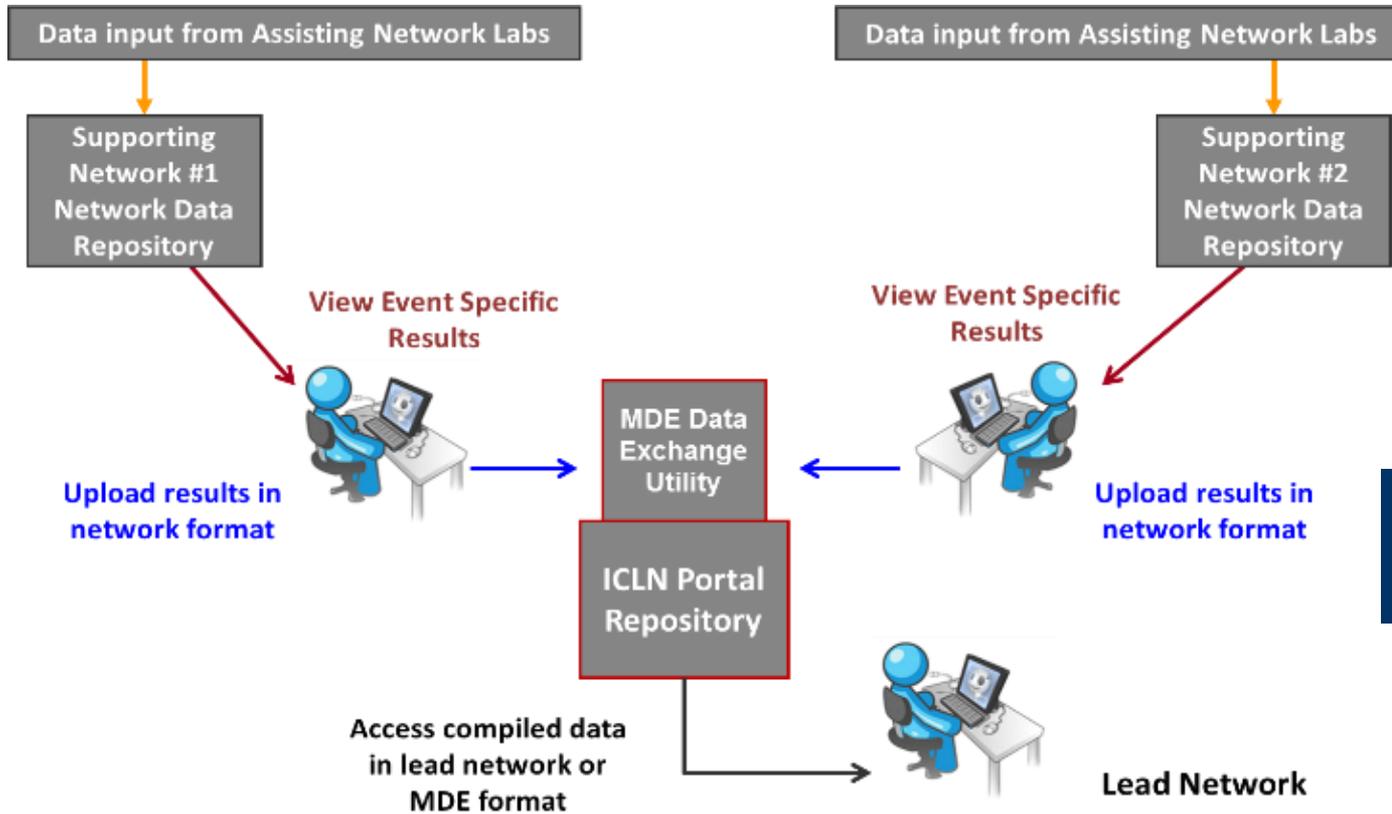
- Methods Test Incident**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings
- PRACTICE ICLN INCIDENT JUNE 1, 2020**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings
- ICLN COVID-19**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings
- PRACTICE ICLN INCIDENT**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings
- 20180918\_CA\_unknown agent pig death by Patrick Shiel**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings
- exercise-practice training DSR-wednesday 11-25-2015**  
SOP Processes:  
» Initiate or Update SITReps  
» Virtual Meetings

[Log Out](#)

*\*Federal laboratory partners can request an account by sending an email to [ICLN@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:ICLN@hq.dhs.gov).*



# DATA EXCHANGE UTILITY



- Converts from native network formats to common MDE\* format

\* MDE = minimum data elements: format developed by Methods and IT subgroups comprising some 40 fields intended to encompass all attributes potentially associated with samples



# COMBINED REGISTRY

ICLN Combined Registry: Search Data Edit Data Manage Users Manage Reference Data



Welcome to the ICLN Combined Registry Application.

Please use the menu items above to:

- **Search Data** - Search and filter Method, Proficiency Testing, and Training data.
- **Edit Data** - Adds edit and delete functions to above screens.
- **Manage Users** - Manage user access and edit permissions by Network.
- **Manage Reference Data** - Add or modify reference (lookup) data used by the application.

***The Combined Registry is a multi-function application on the ICLN Portal. It provides the ICLN community with the ability to securely access and share Methods, Proficiency Testing and Training information and schedules.***



# OPERATIONAL STEPS OF THE ICLN

## ICLN Activated

- Network member **recognizes** there may be a need for **collaboration**.
- **Incident is created** on the ICLN Portal.
- Communication is sent to all **NCG** members.

## Initial SITREP

- A **SITREP** is issued when a potential or evolving situation has been confirmed as a valid incident via a positive analytical result.

## ICLN Coordination Teleconference

- Details of the incident, including current laboratory capacity and capability, are discussed. Resources may be requested to help respond to the incident.

## SITREP Updates & Data Exchange

- SITREPs are updated as new information becomes available.
- Analytical data results are uploaded to the ICLN Data Exchange Utility.

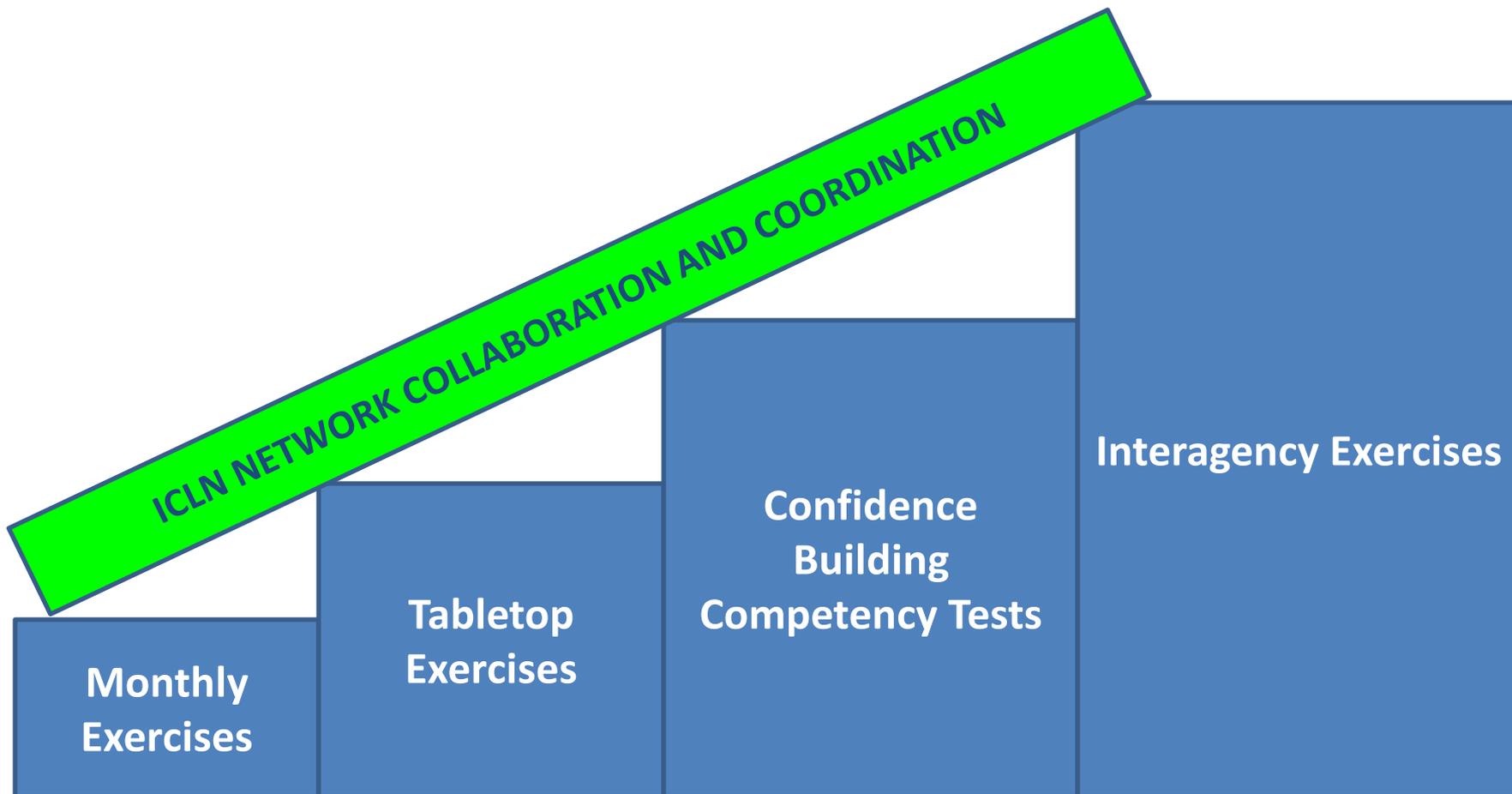
## ICLN Deactivated

- Resources no longer needed are returned to their home network.
- **Final SITREP** issued to close out incident.

—This process may vary slightly from incident to incident.—



# EXERCISES



# ICLN TABLETOP EXERCISES (TTXs)

## ➤ Objectives of ICLN TTXs:

- Networks learn about the procedures, policies of the other networks
- Promote collaboration of NCG network representatives
- Evaluate adequacy of guidance provided in the ICLN Standard Operating Procedure
- Practice sending communication alerts through the ICLN Portal ([www.icln.org](http://www.icln.org))
- Enable exchange of analytical data in a common format through the Data Exchange Utility (within the ICLN Portal)
- Find areas where interoperability is lacking and move forward to address a solution

## ➤ Prior ICLN TTXs (19 to date):

- Biological: 9
- Chemical: 6
- Radiological: 3
- Mixed Agent (Chemical + Radiological): 1

# OTHER AREAS OF PROGRESS

## Representative Guidance Created by ICLN Subgroups:

- Chain of Custody guidance
- Methods Validation guidelines
- Sample Management Logistics guidelines
- Quality Assurance guidelines
- Tabletop Exercise (TTX) and Confidence Building Competency Tests (CBCT) Conduct guidelines
- Combined registry: methods, training, proficiency tests posted on Portal

## Cross-Network Confidence Building Competency Tests (CBCTs):

- These exercises are used to promote analytical confidence and performance between ICLN networks. Challenge samples are sent to volunteer participating labs in multiple networks, with aggregate performance across networks assessed for quality.
  - *Biological: 1*
  - *Chemical: 2*
  - *Radiological: 1*



# CURRENT STATUS

- Due to a lack of funding in the FY 2019 budget, the ICLN was shut-down between February 2019 through March 2020.
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICLN was later reactivated in April 2020 by the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) office of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

## Requirements to manage ICLN:

- ✓ Program funding for contracts in \$350K-\$750K/year range
- ✓ Approximately 0.25 government FTE (with appropriate contract assist)

***Coordinated laboratory response is critical to resolution of CBR contamination or disease incidents.***



# CONTACT INFORMATION



*Email:*

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*Public Website:*

<https://www.icln.org/> for more info