

2011-2011 LABORATORY MILESTONES

2001

April: State Laboratory Moves to Richmond.

Post 9/11: Worked 24/7 testing anthrax samples sent to legislators, news outlets (MDL).

2002

Hazardous air pollutant particles from diesel exhaust accurately determined using innovative sampling system – lists diesel exhaust as a hazardous air pollutant (EHLB).

First West Nile Virus human case appears in California; two years later CDPH reported 830 human cases statewide. (VRDL).

2003

Identified unexpectedly live anthrax organisms associated with research at Children's Hospital Research Center in Oakland (MDL).

2004

The CDPH's *Standard* for testing chemical emissions from building products is issued; it will become the leading national protocol, cited as IAQ best practices by the U.S. Green Building Council and others, and incorporated in the California Green Building Code (EHLB).

Lead dust contamination source identification method using electron microscopy developed and applied to exposure assessment for San Francisco apartment complex under HUD Healthy Homes Program (EHLB).

2005

Lead contamination in candy legislation; thousands of candies tested, >100 high-level lead products removed (FDLB).

Newborn screening program expands to include 40+ treatable genetic diseases (GDCB).

2006

California Environmental Contaminate Biomonitoring Program laboratory established to develop and utilize laboratory methods to measure the toxic chemical burden in the public (EHLB).

Assisted in an investigation of a national outbreak of *E. coli* 0157:H7 associated with bagged spinach (MDL).

2007

Food & Drug Lab Branch celebrates its centennial (FDLB).

Passive samplers for collection of toxic airborne particles deployed for first time to determine exposure levels during the San Diego Wildfires, with analysis by automated scanning electron microscopy (EHLB).

2008

Hundreds of pounds of peanut butter from across the nation sent to CA for *Salmonella* testing (FDLB).

Unvaccinated traveler imports measles to San Diego, resulting in an outbreak of measles in 11 children and 839 exposed persons (VRDL).

2009

US's oldest state public health virus lab celebrates 50 years (VRDL).

First trimester screening added for Down syndrome; enhanced detection rate more than 90% (GDCB).

H1N1 influenza pandemic leads to respiratory testing surge (VRDL).

2010

High levels of mercury found in face cream illegally imported from Mexico (FDLB).

Exposure to radio frequency from cell phone usage and Smart Meters investigated to develop guidelines to protect public health (EHLB).

2011

Following the earthquake in Japan, laboratory scientists played a key role by monitoring radiation levels and educating Californians on the potential risks of radiation exposure.