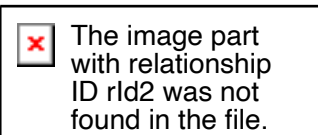# APHL Training for New Public Health Nurses

A Local Perspective

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Orientation Plan Considerations

Public health nurses represent a diverse group of health care workers, with varied training and education.

- Licensed practical nurse (LPN) / licensed vocational nurse (LVN)
  - Program 12-18 months
  - National Council Licensure Examination for practical nurses (NCLEX-PN)

- Registered nurse
  - Diploma – usually hospital based nursing program
  - Associate degree
  - Bachelor degree in nursing
  - Bachelor or masters degree other than nursing plus additional nursing program (usually 2 years)
  - All programs of study must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)

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Orientation for new public health TB nurses

- Establish foundational "get your feet wet" training
  - TB 101 for Health Care Workers, Core Curriculum, TB Modules, etc.
- Shadow TB nurses, DIS, epidemiology and medical staff
  - Participate in virtual case review if shadowing is not feasible
- Review medical records
  - Complete case summary sheet (or equivalent) for test or actual patient
- Provide matrix or flowsheet that depicts usual workflow from specimen collection through testing performed on culture growth
  - Include all labs involved in collection and testing
- Complete APHL training for new public health TB nurses

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Modify training to meet individual and program need

- Nurses with knowledge of laboratory test methods may benefit from APHL training early in the on-boarding process
- Delay training for nurses with little laboratory experience and those with remote microbiology training
  - End of first month on the job is most beneficial
- Save job aids for future reference
- Review training periodically during orientation
- Arrange tour of public health lab, if possible

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Thank you for your work toward TB elimination!

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