



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 and 14 Combined

APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: State Animal Health Official and Submitting Veterinary
Diagnostic Lab Access to Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Records Reported from the National Animal Health Laboratory
Network Labs and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory
to the United States Department of Agriculture's Laboratory
Messaging Service**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Laboratory Messaging Service (LMS) is a database application that serves as the centralized point of receipt for electronic veterinary diagnostic records being reported from veterinary diagnostic labs (National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs) to the USDA. LMS also receives test results being reported from cases forwarded from NAHLN labs to the USDA, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for further diagnostic testing. Significant advances have been made in the NAHLN's ability to electronically transfer (message) veterinary diagnostic records from NAHLN labs and NVSL to LMS. These stepwise improvements in connectivity between veterinary diagnostic laboratories (VDLs) and USDA represent great progress towards establishing seamless and scalable systems of reportable disease veterinary diagnostic information transfer between US VDLs and veterinary medical officials. However, USDA does not currently have an effective application for providing state animal health officials electronic access to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory records received into LMS that have originated from animals or farm sites in their respective states. Similarly, NAHLN labs do not have electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions in which they forward onto NVSL for further testing. Permissioned access solutions are needed to bridge this gap in connectivity that exists between the USDA's LMS, state animal health officials, and veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

RESOLUTION:

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop an application that provides state animal health officials electronic access to veterinary diagnostic laboratory records originating from animals or farm sites in their respective states that have been reported from National Animal Health Laboratory Network Labs or USDA, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) to USDA's Laboratory Messaging Service. Similarly, AAVLD and USAHA encourage USDA to provide veterinary diagnostic laboratories electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions in which that same veterinary diagnostic laboratory has forwarded onto NVSL for further testing.