

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Date: February 10, 2025
To: House Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects Appropriations Subcommittee
From: Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Re: Update on construction progress of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Construction of Phase 1 of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University (ISU VDL) started in March of 2021 and was completed and occupied in March of 2024. Phase 1 includes 90,000 gross square feet (gsf) of program space and 11,000 gsf of unfinished basement. The cost of the project was \$75 million (\$63.5 million Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), \$11.5 million ISU and donors). The sections/services in Phase 1 include Client Services, Receiving and Accessioning, Sample Processing, Pathology, Histopathology, Bacteriology, a Teaching Laboratory, and all the centralized Carcass (incinerator) and Lab Waste Sterilization Equipment and a Commons Space to support the entirety of the new VDL building. Several members of the Iowa Legislature were able to attend the open house celebration for Phase 1 on April 4, 2024. At that event we also celebrated the groundbreaking of Phase 2 with construction starting in mid-April, 2024.

Phase 2 construction (78,500 gsf) is on schedule for completion in the Fall of 2026. Phase 2 will include Molecular Diagnostics, Genetic Sequencing, Virology, Serology, Analytical Chemistry/Toxicology, Biosecurity Level-3 lab, Diagnostic Research and Development, Information Technology, Quality Assurance and VDL Administration. The project will cost \$66.5 million (\$18 million RIIF, a \$40 million allocation from the Governor from ARPA Capital Projects, \$8.5 million ISU and donors)

When completed, this built for purpose facility will provide the physical infrastructure for the provision of a world-class (customer-centered) veterinary diagnostic service for generations to come. This investment in infrastructure is an outward reflection of our State's continued commitment towards being a nationally and internationally recognized leader in animal agriculture and supplier of safe, high-quality, and affordable food products to our nation and world.

The ISU VDL serves a critical role in protecting animal and human health in Iowa and the US. The ISU VDL utilizes the latest technologies in veterinary diagnostic medicine to keep diseases from entering farms and responding to disease outbreaks when they occur. The ISU VDL is the largest food animal focused VDL in the US, receiving over 125,000 cases and conducting over 1.5 million tests in 2024. The ISU VDL also plays a significant role in protecting companion animal, horse, wildlife and human health which is impactful to the quality of life and overall economy of Iowa.

Approximately 180 faculty and staff work in the ISU VDL. Baseline operational funding of the ISU VDL is critical to sustain a level of preparedness to respond to introduction of foreign animal diseases (HPAI, FMDV, ASFV etc.), to recruit and retain staffing for appropriate response, and to keep tests affordable and thereby encourage more testing and with that less "spillover" of disease to neighboring farms.

Members of the General Assembly are welcome to tour the new building, as well as the progress on construction of Phase 2. Please let us know if anyone is interested.