



Microbiological, environmental medicine and water hygiene laboratory investigations, including hospital hygiene analyses.



Evaluation of data, e.g. on the spread of infectious diseases, drinking water quality or school entrance examinations.



Conception and realisation of advanced training courses for professional groups from within the health services.



Consulting for public health services and medical facilities (e.g. hospitals) and professional groups from within the health services.



Informing the public and the professional public with flyers, reports and the website [www.nlga.niedersachsen.de](http://www.nlga.niedersachsen.de)



**Quality assured service offering**

in the medical laboratories, testing laboratories and, as ring test provider, at the Aurich site, as well as certification of other areas (advanced training courses, Centre for Health and Infection Protection: ZGI).

**20 000** samples are tested annually for viruses, bacteria or parasites.

The NLGA offers **50** advanced training courses annually, with **1 300** participants.

The antibiotic resistance monitoring data for Lower Saxony (ARMIN) for the period from 2006 to 2015 comprise **2 300 000** identifications of pathogenic agents.

**325 000** individual investigations of drinking water (Drinking Water Ordinance) and swimming pool and bathing pool samples after DIN 19643 are performed annually.

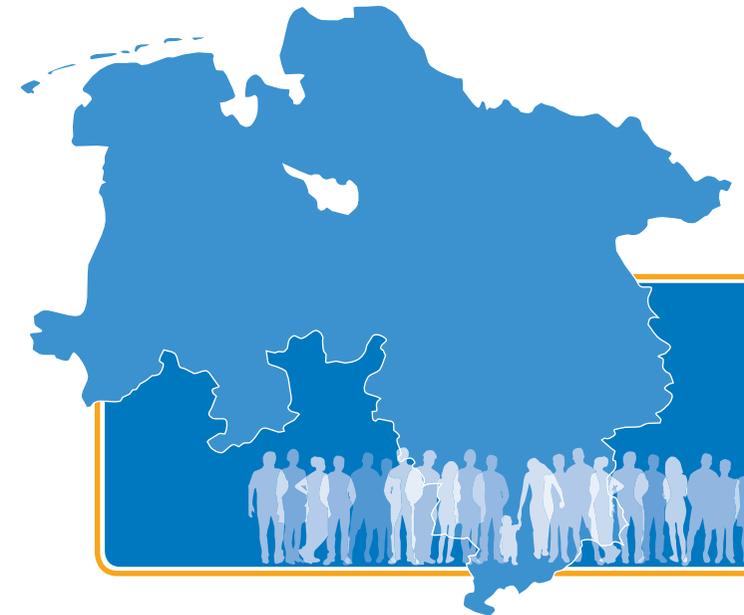
\*All data are rounded off and refer to the year 2015.

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In this publication descriptions of persons such as „the employees“ or „the participants“ are used in the masculine plural form. Such formulations of course refer equally to men and women. The feminine form was omitted in the interest of better readability.



**For the health of the citizens of Lower Saxony**

## Overview

As the central authority for infectious and non-infectious diseases, the Public health agency of Lower Saxony (NLGA) is frequently consulted in questions dealing with the health protection of the citizens of Lower Saxony. The NLGA advises the communal health authorities and health offices in particular.

Pathogens and toxic substances can be quickly and reliably identified in the laboratories of the NLGA. The detection of highly infectious pathogens is possible in a high-biosecurity laboratory.



The NLGA advises and supports medical facilities and nursing facilities regarding the implementation of hygienic measures.

In cases of health crises (e.g. the occurrence of highly pathogenic substances or particular chemical hazards) the Centre for Health and Infection Protection (ZGI) is available around the clock for professional support.



When the clustering of cancer cases is suspected, NLGA experts offer a scientific analysis with reference to the epidemiological cancer register.

The health development is monitored and evaluated in order to advise possible actions in response. These include e. g. vaccinations as a preventive measure for protection against infectious diseases.



## Organisational Structure

The NLGA, with locations in Hanover (head office) and Aurich (work focus water hygiene) is organised according to four departments and four administrative departments.

1

### Central Functions

(Budget, Personnel Management and Administration, Information Technology, Organisation)

2

### Microbiology, Infection Protection, Hospital Hygiene and Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases

3

### Environmental Medicine, Hygiene and Epidemiology

4

### Specialist Tasks for the Public Health Services

(Issuing Health Reports, Notification Office of the Epidemiological Cancer Register)

### Quality Management

### Centre for Health and Infection Protection

### Publicity and Media Relations

### Information Security Commissioner

The NLGA is a subordinate authority of the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Equal Opportunities for Lower Saxony. The legal basis is the Public Health Services Act of Lower Saxony. The NLGA is part of the public health services in Lower Saxony, together with the communal health authorities and health offices.

## History

The NLGA and its predecessor's facilities look back upon a history of more than 100 years.

1900

At the beginning of the 20th century the Prussian government established bacteriological laboratories at different locations, including Lower Saxony. In 1907 these were designated „Königliche Medizinaluntersuchungsämter“.

1995

In the middle of the 1990s the federal state government decided to close the eight „Medizinaluntersuchungsämter“ in existence at that time and establish a central federal state institute.

1997

In 1997 a comprehensive reorientation and restructuring of the NLGA followed. Environmental medicine and epidemiology, as well as advanced training, were defined as new focal activities.

2000

On 1 January 2000 the epidemiological cancer register was created in Lower Saxony. The cancer register is divided between a notification office in the NLGA and a registration office at the OFFIS Care GmbH (in Oldenburg).

2015

In recent times, the further development of the NLGA to a modern specialist authority has been characterized by such challenges as the pandemic caused by the new influenza A (H1N1) virus in 2009, the EHEC outbreak in Northern Germany in 2011, or the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014.