



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



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).

37 500 samples are tested annually for viruses, bacteria, pollutants or parasites.

The NLGA offers **30** advanced training courses annually, with **1 700** participants.

The antibiotic resistance monitoring data for Lower Saxony (ARMIN) for the period from 2006 to 2015 comprise **5 000 000** identifications of pathogenic agents.

335 000 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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**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

The Prussian government is setting up bacteriological testing centers at various locations. In 1907 these were given the name „Royal Medical Examination Offices“.

1995

By resolution of the state government, the eight medical examination offices in Lower Saxony will be merged into a central state health office with a branch in Aurich.

1997

The NLGA is being restructured and realigned. Environmental medicine and epidemiology as well as professional development are set as additional priorities.

2000

The Lower Saxony Epidemiological Cancer Register (EKN) is founded. It is divided into a trust office in the NLGA and a registry office at OFFIS Care GmbH (Oldenburg).

2006

The NLGA is being expanded: The Center for Health and Infection Protection (ZGI), which is available 24/7, serves as a counseling center for health crisis situations.

2015

The work of the NLGA is shaped by disease outbreaks such as the "swine flu" (2009), the EHEC outbreak in Northern Germany (2011) or the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (2014).

2020

The NLGA is available to advise politicians and administrators during the Corona pandemic. The NLGA's extension building at a cost of nine million euros is completed.