



STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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## **Governor Announces Funding for Design of Laboratory**

*Capital Budget includes \$9.4 million for new central Maryland facility*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 2, 2006) – The first step in a major capital initiative began today when Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., announced a \$9.4 million allocation in the FY '07 Capital Budget for design of a new laboratory for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The funding is for the first phase of design work.

“This new laboratory will help Maryland meet future public health commitments,” Governor Ehrlich said. “The state-of-the-art facility will enable scientists to efficiently look for and rapidly identify disease outbreaks.”

The laboratory will be built in the Jessup area of Howard County and is expected to be ready in 2011. It will be approximately 200,000 square feet.

Phase I planning will consist of site work, schematics, detail designs and initial construction drawings. Phase II design, scheduled in FY '08, is for the completion of the construction drawings. Construction is expected to occur in 2009-2010.

Total cost for the new facility, including the design work, is estimated at \$150 million.

The current facility is located in Baltimore. It was designed in the 1960s, is in need of extensive maintenance and has limited technical capabilities to meet current demands. State officials say it is less expensive to construct a new building than it would be to renovate the existing structure.

Maryland is now one of a dozen states planning or constructing new public health laboratories.

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