



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

Laboratory Response Network Profile

The County of San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory (SLOPHL) - serves as the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) reference laboratory for the identification of biologic agents of terrorism for San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. We have been serving in this capacity since early 2009 as one of 14 local public health laboratories providing LRN services to multi-county jurisdictions in California. In addition, the state laboratory also provides LRN services. We are located at 2191 Johnson Ave, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. You can also contact us at (805) 781-5507.

Our Mission

Our role is to accurately determine the presence or absence of suspected bioterrorism agents and assist clinical and other diagnostic laboratories - called sentinel laboratories - in ruling out these agents by basic microbiologic techniques or by rapidly referring specimens and culture isolates for testing. We also facilitate training and communication to ensure timely responses and identification of possible agents.

What we do

We perform standardized molecular amplification and conventional biologic tests that have been developed by the CDC and other national laboratories for the identification of the bacterial **agents of anthrax, plague, tularemia, brucellosis, melioidosis and glanders**. We also perform testing for **varicella** and certain **pox viruses** such as smallpox virus and environmental specimens for the **ricin** toxin. Our laboratory uses high quality, well-vetted procedures using reagents manufactured by the CDC for these testing purposes with federal grant support.

Who we work with

We work with the public health officials of the three counties, as well as law enforcement, FBI, emergency response officials, hospitals and diagnostic laboratories – both public and private.

Who can refer to our laboratory?

Any diagnostic laboratory located in the tri-county area that performs comprehensive microbiologic testing can refer suspect bacterial culture isolates that cannot be ruled out. Environmental specimens can be submitted under the guidance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, usually coordinated with hazardous materials and environmental health responders.

How you can get a specimen to our laboratory:

We have a contracted courier system that serves the three counties. We can dispatch a courier for convenient pickup and delivery of specimens without a charge.

If we have culture we're not sure about, should we continue to perform testing?

No. Even if you're not sure, contact our laboratory and arrange for transport as quickly as possible. We are prepared to perform testing 24/7/365, and provide a high quality results within a few hours after receipt of a specimen. Call (805)781-5507 or after hours call (805) 459-9915.

How do I get results?

Results of testing are communicated to the designated county public health officials for your jurisdiction and to your laboratory.