



# Messenger

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## Influenza Surveillance in California

The incidence of influenza remains low throughout California.

Until November 20, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory had not detected any influenza cases among hospitalized patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) or rapid-test-positive patient specimens. Last week, the laboratory detected Influenza A H1 2009 by PCR for two outpatients seen at an urgent care center and a hospital emergency room.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [FluView](#) reports local or regional activity for a number of states, including neighboring Arizona and Oregon.

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## Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) Update

Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare neurological condition with sudden onset of limb weakness. Public health authorities are appealing to the medical community to report cases and collect appropriate study specimens to establish the cause of this debilitating illness.

In 2018, the CDC has [reported 116 confirmed cases of AFM in patients from 31 U.S. states](#). CDC laboratories have recovered Enterovirus 71 and D68, as well as coxsackievirus A16, from the spinal fluid of four cases since 2014. For all other patients (n=426), no microbial agent was detected. [See more detail from the CDC](#).

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## Mycoplasma genitalium Testing Now Available at SLO Public Health Laboratory

The Public Health Laboratory announces the availability of the M. genitalium (Mgen) amplification test (test # 2870), employing the APTIMA transcription-mediated amplification technology.

**For the period of October 19 to December 31, 2018, Mgen testing (test #2870) will be performed without a charge for non-profit providers.**

This will help the laboratory gain a better understanding of the disease burden caused by this emerging pathogen. Non-profit providers, please mark requisitions: "NO CHARGE MGEN SURVEILLANCE."

If multiple tests are ordered for urine testing, please collect and submit a second APTIMA urine collection tube. Specifically, please note that two APTIMA urine collection tubes are requested if Chlamydia, N. gonorrhoeae or Trichomonas amplification tests are ordered together with an Mgen amplification test.

For collection supplies, contact the laboratory at 805-781-5507.

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## Holiday Hours

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory will be closed:

- Tuesday, December 25, Christmas
- Tuesday, January 1, New Year

Our courier pick-up will resume on the next scheduled business day.

Questions? Please contact the Laboratory Director at 805-781-5512 or [jbeebe@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jbeebe@co.slo.ca.us).

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County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory  
[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org) | (805) 781-5507

