

## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## **PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY**

Date: November 22, 2022

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## **Reminder for Interpreting Valley Fever Test Results**

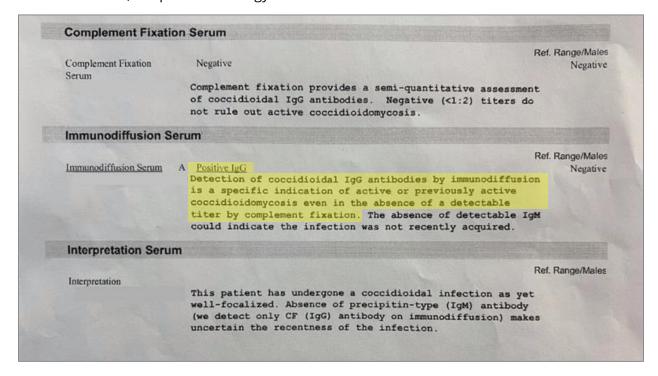
San Luis Obispo County has the third highest rate of Valley Fever in California. Recent research suggests that rates may continue to rise following periods of drought, particularly in wetter coastal regions. With currently high rates, projected increases, and the importance of timely detection, Public Health offers clarification for interpreting test results:

A negative Complement Fixation Serum (CFS) result does not indicate or confirm the absence of Valley Fever. Not all Valley Fever patients develop a detectable level of IgG antibodies needed for complement fixation. UC Davis estimates that about 15% of patients who have been serologically confirmed for Valley Fever never develop a detectable complement fixation titer.

Valley Fever should not be ruled out if CFS results are negative. **Refer to the serology results for confirmation.** 

Below are two examples of laboratory documents belonging to individuals with *confirmed* Valley Fever in which they had positive serology tests but negative CFS results.

In this document, the positive serology result is listed below the CFS result:



In this document, the positive serology result is alluded to in the interpretation section:

		Ref. Range/Female
Complement Fixation Serum	Negative	Negativ
	Complement fixation provides a semi-quantitative ass	essment
	of coccidioidal IgG antibodies. Negative (<1:2) tit not rule out active coccidioidomycosis.	
nterpretation Seru	ım .	
		Ref. Range/Female
Interpretation		
	This specimen is negative for coccidioidal antibody complement fixation. Thus the coccidioidal infection	_
	(indicated by our positive immunodiffusion) serologi	Cally

Please interpret CFS results with caution and always refer to the serology results for confirmation of Valley Fever.

For more information on Valley Fever in SLO County, visit <a href="www.slocounty.ca.gov/valleyfever">www.slocounty.ca.gov/valleyfever</a>.