



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

January 2015

Influenza surveillance-~~LAB SURVEILLANCE ENDS JANUARY 21.~~

San Luis Obispo (SLO) Public Health Laboratory (PHL) is detecting Influenza A type H3N2 subtype in the majority of specimens submitted. Influenza type B has also been detected. Drifted or mutationally-altered influenza A (H3N2) viruses are causing widespread transmission throughout most of the United States. Transmission in California is now being upgraded to "Widespread" as well. The SLO Public Health Laboratory will continue to accept specimens (naso-pharyngeal swab in M4 Viral transport medium) for influenza testing, but use of the Influenza RT-PCR test (# 50000) at this point in the season **will be charged at established fee.**

Recommended specimens include:

From patients who are hospitalized with influenza-like illness (ILI) and/or placed in an ICU – regardless of rapid test result and from outpatients with ILI and at high risk for co-morbidities.

If an ILI outbreak occurs in an institutional setting, contact Communicable Disease at the SLO Public Health Department: 805-781-5500.

In addition, cases of parotitis—an unusual complication of influenza virus infection—has been reported to the CDC from multiple states. To assist the CDC in ascertainment of these cases, the state department of public health is interested in receiving reports of individuals of any age with laboratory-confirmed influenza infection who are also diagnosed with parotitis.

Enterovirus 68 Epidemic—Conclusion of surveillance

The SLO PHL continues testing for the virus using the newly introduced real-time Enterovirus PCR test (# 6300). Using this test with referrals of positive specimens to the state laboratory for specific EV68 PCR testing has resulted in the identification of one case of EV68 infection in a SLO County.

Seasonal Virus activity.

This year has also seen increased activity for other respiratory viruses including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and human metapneumovirus – causing illness primarily in children; and parainfluenza viruses 1, 2 and 3. These viruses and others can be detected by the Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP) PCR test (# 6040). This is also the time of year when gastrointestinal illness—especially Norovirus illness- increases. The public health laboratory offers the Gastrointestinal Pathogen PCR Panel (GPP, # 6200) to assist to definitive diagnosis of gastrointestinal illness.

Please contact the SLO PHL 805-781-5507 if instruction is needed for submission for any of these tests.