



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

February 2015

Influenza Activity

California has been downgraded to “regional” transmission of influenza largely due to the dominance of the type A H3N2 mutationally altered variants. The San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (PHL) is still detecting Influenza A type H3 and type B regularly and 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.

Laboratory Guidance for Ebola virus—Updated

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated guidance for U.S. laboratory and other healthcare personnel handling and testing routine clinical specimens when a concern for Ebola virus disease (EVD) has been raised by a physician.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/laboratories/safe-specimen-management.html>

Measles Outbreak

The San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (PHL) is performing a rtPCR assay on a daily basis. There is no charge for testing specimens (throat swabs, and urine) on patient with signs and symptoms consistent with a possible diagnosis of Measles. No cases of measles have been identified to date in San Luis Obispo County.

Nationally, cases have been identified in 17 states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington) and Washington DC with 141 cases confirmed as of February 18.

Measles has been confirmed in 117 California residents residing in 14 local health jurisdictions (Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Ventura counties and the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena). Vaccination status is documented for 62 of the 110 cases. Of these, 49 (79%) were unvaccinated (10 of whom were infants too young to be vaccinated). Of confirmed cases, at least 39 visited Disneyland in Anaheim, California during December 17 - 20, 2014 where they are thought to have been exposed. Of the remaining cases, 23 are known to be household or close contacts of a confirmed case, 3 were exposed in a community setting