



Messenger

18 Things that you might not have known about the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory

- Is the only laboratory in the county with a biocontainment suite (Biosafety level 3) for handling dangerous agents
- Serves as Regional Response Lab Network to test specimens from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties for anthrax, plague, tularemia, brucellosis, melioidosis, and pox viruses
- Tests specimens in 4 hours for Measles, Mumps and Chickenpox viruses
- Detected a new strain of influenza virus in 2018
- Performs complete DNA sequencing of microbes
- Tests shellfish for growers in Morro Bay, Santa Barbara and San Diego
- Tests for lead poisoning in toddlers and preschoolers
- Tests respiratory specimens in one hour for 17 agents of respiratory illness
- Tests stool specimens in one hour for 23 agents of gastrointestinal illness, including norovirus
- Tests food for agents of foodborne illness, when indicated
- Identifies agents of parasitic illness including Malaria
- Tests ocean water for bacterial contamination, allowing posting of results within 24 hours
- Performs the most advanced tests for detection of HIV, ruling out false positive rapid or other screening tests over a dozen times in the last three years
- Performs advanced tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomonas, herpes virus and mycoplasma genitalium
- Tests fungal cultures for the agent of valley fever (coccidioidomycosis)
- Tests specimens directly for TB within 2 hours
- Tests blood for TB infection (Quantiferon Plus)
- Upgraded in past year to receive test orders electronically and report results electronically for the majority of testing performed

Questions?

Please contact the Laboratory Director at 805-781-5512 or jbeebe@co.slo.ca.us.

