



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

August 2012

Influenza

H3N2 variant. At this writing over 150 cases of influenza have been reported in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Hawaii caused by a variant dubbed H3N2v that contains both human 2009 H1N1 and swine genetic sequences. Virtually all cases have had swine contact—often at county or state fairs. There is no evidence of H3N2v cases in California to date.

Local Surveillance Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases admitted to local hospitals has increased recently. Hospitals have responded to public health requests for ILI specimens regardless of rapid test results. The SLO Public Health Laboratory is screening specimens using both Reverse Transcription PCR for Influenza virus as well as the new Respiratory Virus PCR Panel in an effort to determine what viruses may be circulating in the community. Although Influenza virus transmission is unusual in August, state and federal public health partners are requesting local public health conduct surveillance throughout the summer months recognizing that a new Influenza virus strain (H3N2v) has appeared.

Salmonella cases.

The SLO Public Health Department is investigating a cluster of **Group B Salmonella cases** associated with swine contact at the Mid-State Fair that concluded recently. Numerous isolates and specimen cultures are being studied. Salmonella Sero-group B isolates are being forwarded to the state laboratory for further characterization and Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoretic (PFGE) typing and analysis using PulseNet tools to determine if a single or multiple strains are the cause of the reported cases.

HFMD

The SLO Public Health Department continues to investigate rash illness called Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease, performing the new Respiratory Virus PCR Panel, detecting Enterovirus/Rhinovirus signals. Over a half-dozen positive specimens have been forwarded to the state laboratory for analysis in an on-going effort to determine if Coxsackie Virus Type 6, a newly identified cause of HFMD, is the cause.

West Nile Virus activity

As of Tuesday, August 14, 2012, a total of 23 human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) illness have been reported in nine California local health jurisdictions, none in San Luis Obispo County. There has been one human fatality to date in 2012. Two asymptomatic blood donors have tested positive for WNV in two counties. Nationwide the number of reported WNV cases is in the hundreds as rising mosquito populations have been aided by hot weather. See CDPH website: <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>
Visit the SLO Public Health Laboratory website <http://www.slopublichealth.org/lab>.