



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

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## Untreatable Gonococcal Infections

CDC officials recently cited the overlooked trend of increasing antibiotic resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the gonococcus or GC. With 600,000 reported cases per year in the US—the second most common communicable disease—GC has moved to resistance from one drug class to the next: sulfonamides in 1940s, penicillins and tetracyclines in the 1980s, and fluoroquinolones in 2007. The appearance of resistance often commences with a few cases, then progresses in frequency until a drug or drug class is no longer useful. Now third-generation cephalosporins, notably cefixime and ceftriaxone, are at risk with rising rates of resistance. The proportion of live culture isolates obtained at sentinel surveillance sites that is resistant to cephalosporins has increased by a factor of 17 in the past six years to nearly 2% of all isolates nationwide, and 3.6% of isolates in Western states, and 4.7% of isolates from men who have sex with men (NEJM, Feb 9, 2012.) The San Luis Obispo Public Health laboratory is requesting submission of GC culture isolates for new cases, as well as additional specimens from patients who are possible treatment failures for rapid antibiotic susceptibility testing (to be sent to the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory.) No fee will be charged for these submissions.

## Salmonellosis, multiple serotypes: Chick and Duckling Exposure

CDC is collaborating with public health and agriculture officials in many states and the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), and Veterinary Services to investigate an outbreak of human salmonellosis linked to chicks and ducklings from a single mail-order hatchery in Ohio. As of 25 May 2012, a total of 93 persons infected with outbreak strains of **Salmonella Infantis**, **Salmonella Newport**, and **Salmonella Lille** have been reported from 23 states. No cases have been identified in California to date. Mail-order hatcheries, agricultural feed stores, and others who sell or display chicks, ducklings, and other live poultry should provide health-related information to owners and potential purchasers of these birds prior to the point of purchase. This should include information about the risk of acquiring a *Salmonella* infection from contact with live poultry.

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**Laboratory fee schedule** for the July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 fiscal year will be posted on June 15, 2012 on the Public Health Laboratory website

<http://www.slopublichealth.org/lab>.