



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

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## November 2013

### **Influenza virus surveillance.**

The SLO Public Health Laboratory detected the first positive result by reverse-transcription PCR on November 7th. A patient specimen from a local urgent care facility tested positive for Influenza A pdm H1N1 2009. As this finding may signal the beginning of transmission in the county, submission of specimens from ill patient is solicited. During this same week, a hospitalized patient was detected with a human metapneumovirus by the Respiratory Virus PCR panel (RVP). Many instances of respiratory infection, some quite severe requiring hospitalization, often called “the flu”, are caused by viruses other than Influenza virus.

**Until transmission of influenza virus is firmly established the SLO Public Health Laboratory requests submission of rapid-flu test positive specimens from patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) for surveillance testing at no charge.**

### **Avian Influenza A Update**

On October 16, 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported a new case of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus [H7N9]. The 35-year-old man from Zhejiang Province, China was hospitalized on October 8, 2013, and is currently in critical condition. This is the first case of H7N9 reported since August 2013, when a case with illness onset on July 27, 2013 was reported in Guangdong Province, China.

A new fatal case of H5N1 Influenza virus infection was reported from Indonesia on November 1. Since the appearance of the H5N1 virus in Indonesia, 195 cases with 163 deaths (84% fatality rate) have been recorded in that country.

### **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Update**

On November 19, the Saudi Ministry of Health reported two new cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection. Since September 2012, when the World Health Organization (WHO) first announced the discovery of MERS-CoV, a total of 157 cases have been reported worldwide, including 66 (42%) deaths. Of the case-patients, approximately one-fifth had mild symptoms or were asymptomatic while the majority of patients infected with MERS-CoV have had severe acute respiratory disease.

### **Multistate Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant *Salmonella* Heidelberg Infections Linked to Foster Farms Brand Chicken**

As of November 15, 2013, a total of 389 persons infected with seven outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Heidelberg have been reported from 23 states and Puerto Rico. Although no deaths have been reported, 40% of ill persons have been hospitalized. Most of the ill persons (74%) have been reported from California.

Public Health Laboratory website: <http://www.slopublichealth.org/lab>.