



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

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## October 2013

### **San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory introduces new tests**

**BLOOD LEAD** will be available from the San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory beginning October 28, 2013. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Public Health Laboratory have partnered to increase access for patients to blood lead testing. Each of the Public Health Department clinics – Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo – will collect capillary blood samples by appointment with a public health nurse. Specimens will be submitted to and processed by the San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory. The Lab can bill Medi-Cal, CenCal, CHDP and private insurances. Providers may order the test as follows:

- Fax a requisition to 805-781-5543.
- Give a copy of the lab requisition to the patient/parent.
- Advise the patient/parent to call the nearest health department site to schedule an appointment. Remind patient to bring the lab requisition to the appointment.

**TRICHOMONAS AMPLIFICATION** - the Public Health Laboratory is now offering testing for *Trichomonas vaginalis*. *T. vaginalis* is a sexually-transmitted disease (STD) resulting from a protozoan parasite that can affect male and females, cause itching, burning and redness, difficulty urinating and a discharge. Studies have shown that “trich” may be more common than chlamydia in some populations.

The test, using a single urine specimen and the APTIMA amplification detection assay, can be ordered individually or as a panel with chlamydia and gonorrhea. Pricing for the test, individually or as part of the sexually-transmitted disease (STD) panel, is \$43.

### **Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Outbreak**

The Southern Nevada Health District has contacted about 140 parents of babies who were at Summerlin Hospital Medical Center's NICU unit between mid-May and mid-August in order to test them for TB. The index case is a 25-year-old woman who gave birth to an extremely premature baby in early May. The baby died three weeks later of respiratory failure and extreme prematurity, according to the Clark County coroner. Tests of hospital staff and friends and family of the mother revealed 26 TB infections; most cases are latent and all 26 are being treated. It is unlikely that the babies who may have been exposed will come down with the disease, but public health officials recommended widespread testing out of an abundance of caution. "It's safer to expand the investigation," Joe Iser, District Health Officer said. Public Health officials believe the woman contracted TB through consumption of an unpasteurized dairy product from Latin America. The woman was never tested for TB, but had been sick before and after the birth. She was eventually admitted to a Las Vegas hospital, and later transferred to a Southern California hospital, but nonetheless succumbed to death. An autopsy showed she had TB meningitis.

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