



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

## April 2014

### Recent Events and Public Health Laboratory capability

#### Measles

As of April 10th, 2014, 56 confirmed measles cases with onset in 2014 have been reported to the California Department of Public Health. In 2013, four measles cases had been reported by this date. Some of the patients had traveled to Philippines, India, Vietnam, Singapore or Western Europe: (Belgium, France, Netherlands).

**The SLO Public Health Laboratory can test nasopharyngeal swab specimens (in M4 viral transport medium) and urine by PCR for Measles Virus within hours of receipt of a specimen. Contact the Public Health Department 781-5500 about a possible case**

#### Ricin

March 19 ProMed Digest. Officials at Georgetown University in Washington DC say a substance in a dorm room has tested positive for ricin. University Chief of Police Jay Gruber said in an email Wednesday that no one has reported any symptoms of ricin exposure since the possibility of ricin was reported Tuesday [18 Mar 2014] in McCarthy Hall.

**The SLO Public Health Laboratory can test for ricin when law enforcement or the FBI request. and for the agents of anthrax, plague, tularemia, brucellosis, melioidosis, glanders and pox virus infections as a member laboratory of the CDC-sponsored Laboratory Response Network (LRN). If a situation warrants, contact Law enforcement or the Public Health Department**

#### Scarlet Fever Outbreak- United Kingdom

April 7 ProMed Digest. Scarlet fever infections in the UK have continued to rise to the highest levels for more than 30 years. Between 24 and 30 March 2014 alone, 883 cases were confirmed. A total of 5012 new cases have now been reported since the season began in September 2013, compared with an average of 1420 cases reported for the same period in the previous 10 years.

**The SLO Public Health Laboratory can test for beta hemolytic streptococci and, with aid of the State Public Health Laboratory, obtain epidemiologic typing that can link cases. Outbreaks of streptococcal infection and individual cases in food handlers and dairy workers are reportable.**

The testing menus of the San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory are available on line at <http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab>