



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

June 2014

Pertussis Epidemic, California 2014

With nearly 3,500 cases reported for this year, the California Department of Public Health reports that transmission of pertussis is at epidemic levels. Outbreaks in elementary, middle and high schools are being reported throughout California. Young infants are the most vulnerable to severe disease and death, making prevention very important.

The SLO Public Health Laboratory has tested numerous specimens in recently weeks using the Bordetella Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test daily. Nasopharyngeal wash and swab specimens in saline are being accepted for testing. PCR is superior to culture for detection of the agent of whooping cough. Culture has a reported sensitivity of 45-60% in most published studies whereas PCR is reported 90-95% sensitive. However, the county laboratory is interested in isolates of *B.pertussis* if culture is successful. The assay used by the SLO Public Health Laboratory will also detect *B. parapertussis*. Fee is \$104.50 on July 1, 2014, and all insurances can be billed by the SLO Public Health Laboratory.

Salmonella Outbreaks USA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada, with the collaboration of state and local health departments and PulseNet laboratories, have reported a multi-state outbreak caused by Salmonella serotypes Newport and Hartford linked to consumption of **Chia seeds and powder**. On 28 May 2014, Navitas Naturals recalled products that contain organic sprouted chia powder due to possible Salmonella contamination. The recalled products include Navitas Naturals Organic Sprouted Chia Powder, Navitas Naturals Omega Blend Sprouted Smoothie Mix, and Williams-Sonoma Omega 3 Smoothie Mixer.

A multistate Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak, which has sickened 41 people in 13 states since last November 2013, has been linked to clinical, college and university **teaching microbiology laboratories**, according to a CDC investigation. The cases have been reported from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

In early 2013, four clusters of human salmonellosis infections were identified through PulseNet. Many of the ill persons in these clusters reported **contact with live poultry**, primarily chicks and ducklings, from a single mail-order hatchery. Because of this link the investigations were merged. During a period from March to October 2013, a total of 158 persons infected with outbreak strains of Salmonella serotypes Infantis, Lille, Newport, and Mbandaka were reported from 30 states.