



SLO Public Health Laboratory Bulletin

March 2008

Pertussis PCR Testing at the SLO Public Health Laboratory

The SLO Public Health Laboratory is now receiving nasopharyngeal specimens from suspected human cases of infection due to ***Bordetella pertussis***. Polymerase chain reaction testing or 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. The assay used by the SLO Public Health Laboratory will also detect ***B parapertussis***. Fee is \$71.00, all insurances can be billed by the SLO Public Health Laboratory.

Packaging and Shipping Training— confirmed date

- May 13, 2008 at Ventura County Health Department (**confirmed**) **12 of 20 seats already reserved.**
- May 15, 2008 at Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (tentative)

Presented by nationally-recognized CDC expert Pat Payne, this is a one-day program that provides a comprehensive overview of regulations applicable to Packaging and Shipping human and animal specimens for laboratory testing. Lectures, demonstrations, and group exercises will be used to provide instruction on complying with international, federal and local (including courier services) transportation regulations. This program is designed for Laboratories and Veterinarians who package, ship, and transport division 6.2 hazardous materials such as animal and human specimens and cultures. The FAA requires that individuals who perform packaging and shipping receive training every three years.

If you intend to register when on-line registration becomes available through the National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN) call Trudy Hodge at 805-781-5507 or thodge@co.slo.ca.us and indicate the desired location for your attendance.

Sentinel Laboratory Symposium- a two locations

April 17, 2008 Sacramento California- Hilton Hotel Sacramento Arden West

April 18, 2008 Long Beach California- The Grand Long Beach Event Center

This symposium is intended for laboratory professional employed at clinical, public health, veterinary, toxicology, and environmental laboratories. Participants will be able to discuss the importance of the laboratory as vital entity in emergency preparedness at the local, state and national level.

The California Association of Public Health Laboratory Health Directors and the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services is sponsoring this event. Lunch is included and it qualifies 7 contact hours of continuing education for California Clinical Laboratory Scientists.

Save the Date! May 28, 2008

Hands on Wet Lab of Bioterrorism Agents at Cuesta College. All day workshop allowing hands on experience with attenuated agents of plague, anthrax, tularemia, brucellosis and melioidosis presented by the San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory. 7 CEUs and no charge for this workshop; 12 seats maximum. Call or email Trudy Hodge at 805-781-5507 or thodge@co.slo.ca.us to reserve a seat.