



SLO Public Health Laboratory Bulletin

July 2008

Public Health Laboratory Fees

The San Luis Obispo County Public Laboratory has adjusted fees for testing as of July 1, 2008. For your reference the SLO PHL website is

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/healthtesting/laboratory.htm>

The new fee schedule is a separate document that accompanies this bulletin. Please contact the public health laboratory, Dr Jim Beebe, 805-781-5512. jbeebe@co.slo.ca.us if you have any questions about testing or fees.

Referral of Select Agents—Clarification

In response to June Bulletin article on probable select agent referral, Ken Donahoo of Sierra Vista medical Center, pointed out the need to report the destruction of a select agent that has been referred to the SLO Public Health Laboratory and reported as a confirmed select agent.—IF your laboratory has retained stock culture of the agent. Without Select Agent certification, your laboratory cannot retain isolates as part of your stock culture collection. You must destroy the isolate within 7 days of receipt of a confirmatory report—AND submit a CDC report (Form 4) to the Select Agent program at the CDC.

However, IF you refer all cultures of the probable select agent to the SLO Public Health Laboratory and have no cultures or banked isolates at the time you receive the report from our laboratory that the agent was confirmed, you have no CDC report to submit.

The most common select agent submitted for confirmation to the SLO Public Health Laboratory is ***Coccidioides immitis/posadasii***. Confirmed isolates of this agent are retained for a minimum of six months by the SLO Public Health Laboratory to allow referral of the isolate for antifungal agent susceptibility testing if the medical condition of the patient warrants such testing. Transfers of such isolates to a specialty testing laboratory must be arranged and approved by the CDC Select Agent program in advance of the transfer.

Packaging and Shipping Continued Education Credits

The San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory has purchased a series of three Packaging and Shipping web casts. They are one hour each, and upon completion and a test you can receive **PACE** continuing education credits and a certificate. Here is an opportunity for your phlebotomists to get their continuing education credits. If you are interested please contact Trudy Hodge email thodge@co.slo.ca.us. These training materials expire August 2008.

Important Note: Federal regulations require that individuals performing packaging and shipping must be certified at a minimum of every three years. Training can be a self-study CD course or live-classroom didactic training such as the courses that the San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory has sponsored. Penalties levied by the FAA on shippers who lack this certification can be enormous.