



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

SPECIAL NOTICE -Health Care Providers

Influenza Surveillance

The SLO Public Health Laboratory is soliciting the submission of specimens (nasopharyngeal swab in M4 Viral transport medium; Influenza RT-PCR, Test # 50000) for seasonal influenza virus surveillance without charge.

Please submit:

Hospitals: Specimens from patients who are hospitalized with influenza-like illness (ILI) and/or placed in an ICU – regardless of rapid test result.

Community Health Care Providers: Specimens from patients with ILI and a positive rapid influenza test.

TO AVOID A FEE, NOTE ON THE LAB TEST REQUISITION:

HOSPITALS: THAT THE PATIENT HAS BEEN ADMITTED AND IF PLACED IN ICU (example Admitted 12/15, moved ICU 12/17)

OUT PATIENTS: RAPID TEST RESULT (such as Rapid A+,B-).

The requested submission of these specimens will allow public health officials to determine the starting point and the relative frequency of influenza transmission, and to provide guidance to the medical community regarding the efficacy of antiviral therapy.

Influenza virus activity is currently at a low level as it has been for the summer months. The SLO Public Health Laboratory participates as a member of the Respiratory Laboratory Network and is capable of detection of new influenza virus strains or variants as well as the H5N1 strain and the H7N9 strain that has circulated in China.

Contact the Laboratory Director by phone (805) 781-5512 or email jbeebe@co.slo.ca.us for any additional information regarding this message.