



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY *Messenger* Public Health Laboratory

May 2015

M. tuberculosis Amplification—New method

The San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory has introduced the Cepheid Gene Xpert MTB/RIF assay—a rapid, real-time PCR amplification test that can simultaneously identify *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) and genetic mutations associated with resistance to rifampin with a testing turnaround time upon arrival in the laboratory of 2-3 hours. Current MTB culture methods require weeks to deliver definitive results. Delayed results reporting can lead to patient being left untreated or placed on ineffective therapies. The need for fast and accurate TB diagnosis with indication for the drug resistance is greater than ever.

The assay has been FDA-cleared for induced and expectorated sputum, plus decontaminated/concentrated sediments and the laboratory has been validated the assay for bronchial wash/aspirate/BAL specimens. Orders simply require a check box notation on the laboratory requisition for “M Tuberculosis Amplification” test number 3530.

Disseminated Gonococcal Infections-San Luis Obispo County 2014-2015

SLO County health care providers have reported several cases of disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI) in recent months. Diagnosis has been made for six patients by recovery of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from the blood, body fluid or wound cultures, while two other patients were diagnosed by nucleic acid amplification testing of urine specimens, and the observation of skin lesions indicative of bacteremia. Please contact SLO County Public Health Disease Control (805) 781-5500 if you have information about a possible case.

Salmonella Paratyphi B infections –raw tuna

Investigators at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have uncovered an outbreak of salmonellosis caused by *Salmonella Paratyphi B* associated with consumption of raw tuna used in sushi. As of April 30, 2015, 33 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *S. Paratyphi B* have been reported from seven states, including 21 in California. The pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern associated with this outbreak is new and has not been detected in the U.S. before March 2015. Twenty-four patients either reside in southern California or have reported travel to the area during their exposure period. Illness onset dates have ranged from March 4 through April 13, 2015. CDPH investigators and their counterparts in Arizona and New Mexico have initiated a traceback investigation of tuna supplied to a few of the sushi restaurants reported. As yet a single supplier has not yet been identified.

Hepatitis A cases—Tulum, Mexico

As of May 1, 2015, 27 cases of Hepatitis A virus infection have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that are associated with travel to Tulum, Mexico (near Cozumel on the Yucatan Peninsula). A Travel advisory is posted on the CDC website. <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/hepatitis-a-mexico>.