



# Messenger

## **Influenza Season Begins**

Laboratory Surveillance for Influenza virus activity began on October 1, and the first test run performed by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory scientists detected two cases of Influenza Tyoe A, subtype H3. If the experience of public health authorities in Australia now just finishing their winter season is used as a predictor of severity, vaccination should be on the mind of every resident. The public health laboratory is fully ready to detect the influenza strains expected to circulate that are covered by the vaccine, while also being capable of detecting new variants emerging due to mutation or gene resorting, as well as type A subtypes such as H5N1-- still causing severe illness in Egypt and Southeast Asia and H7N9 in China.

To allow providers to detect other respiratory viruses in the event that illnesses seen are not caused by influenza virus, a new Influenza RT-PCR test, #50010 with a reflex to the Respiratory PCR Panel (RP #6310) is available. The RP panel can detect 17 agents including bacterial agents such *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae* and *Bordetella pertussis* for which antibiotic therapy is appropriate. While there is no charge for influenza RT-PCR testing of properly selected patients with influenza-like illness (hospitalized or rapid-test positive out-patients), the RP test use does incur a charge.

## **You're Invited: CAPHLD Institute Symposium Day November 7 in San Luis Obispo!**

If you are a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in need of continued education hours, you should know that 7 CEUs are available by attending Symposium Day November 7, 2017 during the Annual Institute of the California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD) held at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo.

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The theme of the meeting will be “A Culture of Resilience: Adapting to New Technologies”. Students have the advantage of a discounted fee of \$65 for the entire day.

Symposium Day Speakers include Charles Chiu and Mark Pandori on next generation sequencing, John Griffith on Molecular source tracking, Curtis Fritz on Zoonotic diseases in California, Sharon Messenger on Zika and other flaviviruses, Heidi Bauer on STI trends and Mycoplasma genitalium, and Sheldon Fung on the FBI activities. Join us and hear about the newest scientific advances!

Learn more and register at <http://www.caphld.org>.

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