



Monterey County Health Department
Laboratory Tests and Fees for Specimens Requested
from Communicable Disease Unit
(updated 10/16/2015)

The Communicable Disease Unit routinely requests specimens from laboratories and medical providers as part of public health disease surveillance, prevention, and control. These additional tests performed by the Public Health Laboratory are generally not used for medical management of patients and are for public health purposes only. Therefore, facilities will not be charged for tests requested by the Communicable Disease Unit. ICU/fatal influenza-like illness meeting the below criteria, *Listeria*, malaria, *E. coli*/shiga toxin, and *Salmonella* will be routinely billed to the Communicable Disease Unit by the Public Health Laboratory. For all other diseases not listed above, community-based laboratories and medical providers should **contact the Communicable Disease Unit (831-755-4521) to obtain a pre-authorized laboratory request form prior to submitting the specimen(s) to avoid charges.** In addition, facilities will not be charged for any pre-authorized tests conducted as part of a Health Department outbreak investigation.

The Tuberculosis Control Unit routinely requests that any laboratory which isolates *M. tuberculosis* from a patient should submit the specimen to the Public Health Laboratory. Because test results are made available to the medical providers for management of patients, facilities will be charged for testing.

Specimens to Submit

Bacillus anthracis

Specimens from suspect cases in animals and/or humans

E. coli

Isolates of shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) O157 and non-O157 isolates

Haemophilus influenzae

Isolates from patients <15 years of age with laboratory-confirmed *H. influenzae*

Influenza-like Illness

Nasopharyngeal specimens collected with Dacron swabs and in viral transport media from ICU or fatal cases with 1) fever $\geq 100.0^\circ$ and cough without known cause, or 2) fever $\geq 100.0^\circ$ and sore throat without known cause OR specimens from individuals with influenza-like illness and recent travel to Asia or the Middle East OR specimens from individuals with influenza-like illness and close contact with swine or poultry. Specimens should be collected within 5 days of symptom onset.

Listeria monocytogenes

Isolates of *Listeria monocytogenes*

Malaria

Blood film slides from patient with laboratory-confirmed malaria

Measles

Specimens from patients with 1) strong clinical suspicion of disease, and 2) history of international travel or contact with international travelers

Neisseria meningitidis

Isolates from patients with laboratory-confirmed *N. meningitidis*

Rabies

Suspect cases in animals and/or humans

Salmonella

Cultures from patients with laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella*

Shiga Toxin in Feces

Cultures from patients with shiga toxin detected

M. tuberculosis (laboratory fees will apply)

How to Submit a Specimen to Monterey County Public Health Laboratory

Please go to www.mtyhd.org/phlab for information on specimen requirements, packing, shipping, receiving hours, and required forms. **MCPHL: 831-755-4516, 1270 Natividad Rd., Salinas, CA 93906.**