

Attachment 16 - Public Health Laboratory Additional Fee Information

Program Overview

The Public Health Laboratory provides clinical, environmental, and rabies testing. These fee-based testing services aid doctors, hospitals, acute care facilities, environmental health agencies, and Sonoma County Animal Services in diagnosing and performing enforcement duties.

Program Fees

The Public Health Laboratory Fee Schedule was last updated for FY 2023-2024. Because no fee increase was implemented in FY 2024-2025, the Department is proposing an approximate 8% increase to most Public Health Laboratory fees, rounded up to the nearest dollar. Revised fees are requested to recover increased labor and supply costs that have been determined by a third-party fee study completed in February 2025.

Public Health Laboratory fees are set at below full-cost recovery amounts and are subsidized with grants and 1991 Health Realignment funding. The subsidy is not based on a per fee rate but on the overall Public Health Laboratory cost. In Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Realignment funding subsidized a budgeted amount of ~\$727,000. Providing market-rate, subsidized services to the public and non-government organizations allows the Department to recover a portion of the cost of operating the laboratory by performing tests that meet a public benefit or would otherwise be taken to private labs.

Fee Increases over 3% and New Fees

Public Health Laboratory fees will see an approximate 8% increase across all categories, due to a missed fiscal year of rate adjustments and the results of a third-party cost study. Proposed additions to the Public Health Laboratory fee schedule this year:

Microbial Diseases Laboratory

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$4510.

New fees:

- MALDITOF Identification (Bacterial Organisms): new testing methodology acquired.
- MALDITOF Identification (Mycobacterial Organisms): new testing methodology acquired.

Change:

- Mycobacteria Isolate Identification (for Title 17 - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility)
- Bacteriology Isolate Identification (for Title 17 - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility):

Historically, these two lab tests have been listed as \$0 on the public fee schedule because submitting facilities cannot be charged directly for complying with Title 17 required submissions. They have a cost associated with them and for transparency, the specific tests have been listed with a fee that is applicable to the local health jurisdiction of the facility submitting the specimen.

Remove:

- Fungus Culture
- Fungus Identification

Serology Laboratory

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$873.

Clinical Molecular Laboratory

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$19,020.

Increase:

- Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV: This fee will increase by 31%, due to an error in the FY2023-2024 submitted fee schedule.

Change:

- Brucella species (B. abortus, B. canis, B. melitensis) RT-PCR: this was previously listed under Biothreat Agent testing, exempt from fees. In January 2025, this family of microorganisms was removed from the Select Agent list. SCPHL will continue to offer fee-based testing.

Remove:

- Herpes Simplex Virus 1&2, RT-PCR
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae NAA
- Influenza A/B, RT-PCR (Dx)
- Influenza A subtyping (Dx)
- Influenza B lineage typing (DX)
- Influenza A/B, RT-PCR (PH use/surveillance)
- Influenza A subtyping (PH use/surveillance)
- Influenza B lineage typing (PH use/surveillance)
- Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2
- Varicella Zoster Virus PCR

The influenza assays being deleted have been replaced with new assays capable of detecting Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):

New fees:

- CDC Human Influenza Panel A/B, RT-PCR (Diagnostic - FDA approved)
- CDC Human Influenza Panel A subtyping (Diagnostic - FDA approved)
- CDC Human Influenza HPAI typing (Diagnostic - FDA approved)
- CDC Human Influenza Panel A/B, RT-PCR (PH use/surveillance - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility)
- CDC Human Influenza Panel A subtyping (PH use/surveillance - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility)
- CDC Human Influenza Panel B lineage typing (PH use/surveillance - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility)
- CDC Human Influenza HPAI Surveillance (PH use/surveillance - fee applies to LHJ of submitting facility)

Surveillance & Sequencing Assays

Additional revenue from Surveillance & Sequencing Assays is estimated at \$0; fees are currently waived for Wastewater surveillance testing due to the availability of grant funding.

Wastewater detection and sequencing capacity has been added:

New fees:

- Wastewater surveillance - 5 week, 10 sample bundle including Respiratory Panel, Norovirus, TB, C. auris, Measles, MPXV, HIV)
- Wastewater surveillance - detection (Qiagen Respiratory Panel - SARS-CoV-2, Inf A/B, RSV)
- Wastewater surveillance - detection (Qiagen Norovirus)
- Wastewater surveillance - detection (Qiagen TB, C. auris)
- Wastewater surveillance - detection (Measles, MPXV, HIV panel)
- Wastewater surveillance - detection (Custom panel)
- Wastewater COVID sequencing (SARS-CoV-2 ClearLabs Expansion; min. 16 sample batch)

Bacterial pathogen sequencing capacity has been added:

New fee:

- 16S Microbial Sequencing - Epidemiological studies (SeqStudio)

Biothreat Agent Testing

No fees are charged for testing in this program; it is funded by PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) grant.

Change:

- Brucella species (B. abortus, B. canis, B. melitensis) RT-PCR: this was previously listed under Biothreat Agent testing, exempt from fees. In January 2025, this family of microorganisms was removed from the Select Agent list. SCPHL will continue to offer fee-based testing under the Clinical Molecular Laboratory section.

Remove:

- Coxiella burnetii (Q Fever Agent): assay no longer supported by the CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN).

Rabies and Ticks Fees

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$4,425.

New fee:

- Tick Identification Fee

Algal Toxins Testing

Algal Toxin Testing is a potential addition to the fee schedule, for the use of Sonoma County Environmental Health. Additional revenue from Algal Toxin Testing is estimated at \$960 if testing is utilized.

New fees:

Algal Toxin ELISA: Microcystins / Nodularins (EPA method 546)

Algal Toxin ELISA: Cylindrospermin

Algal Toxin ELISA: Anatoxin-a

Water & Shellfish Laboratory

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$9,563.

Dairy Laboratory

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$8,642.

NGHA (Non-Diagnostic Health Assessment) Program Fees

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$362.

Miscellaneous Lab Fees

All existing laboratory fees will be increased by approximately 8%, based on missing one fiscal year of rate increases, and the results of the third-party laboratory cost study. Additional revenue is estimated at \$163.

New fees:

- Assay development & implementation (diagnostic-FDA approved or LDT) - please call for information
- Assay development & implementation (non-FDA approved) - please call for information

The overall increase in revenue for fiscal year 2025-2026 Public Health Laboratory services is estimated at \$36,720.