

Attachment 3
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Public Health Laboratory Fees
May 14, 2019

Public Health Division – Public Health Laboratory Fees

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. The Laboratory also serves a regional role, providing the same services to Mendocino County through a flat-fee contract that is adjusted annually.

Revised fees are requested to recover increased labor costs that have increased 4.5%. The Department is proposing 4.5% percent increases to all Public Health Laboratory fees.

Public Health Laboratory fees are set at below full-cost recovery amounts and are subsidized with Realignment funding. 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.

Proposed Additions to the Public Health Laboratory fee schedule:

Microbial Disease Laboratory; QuantiFERON (TB screening): This tuberculosis screening assay is added to the test menu to support County Disease Control activities and potentially provide the service to local hospitals. The fee of \$35 is based on a reagent cost analysis and is competitive with private lab fees. Estimated additional revenue for this test is \$700.

Gene Sequencing to identify all bacteria, yeast, fungus, and Mycobacteria: The fee of \$94 is based on analysis of the cost to provide the service and consideration of the market rate for similar service. Estimated additional revenue for this test is \$1,034.

Virus Laboratory: RSV or Influenza A-B: The fee of \$94 is based on analysis of the cost to provide the service and consideration of the market rate for similar service. Estimated additional revenue for this test is \$20,116.

Virus Laboratory; CDC Trioplex (Chikungunya, Dengue, Zika): The fee of \$94 is based on analysis of the cost to provide the service and consideration of the market rate for similar service. Estimated additional revenue for this test is \$17,484.

Other; Shipping & handling: The fee of \$30 is based on analysis of the cost to provide the service and consideration of the market rate for similar service. Estimated additional revenue for this test is \$2,400.

Changes to Existing Public Health Laboratory Fees:

Environmental Laboratory

All existing test fees are increased by approximately 4.5% due to increased labor costs, resulting in an estimated \$10,007 additional revenue.

Attachment 3
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Public Health Laboratory Fees
May 14, 2019

Microbial Disease Laboratory

All existing test fees are increased by approximately 4.5% due to increased labor costs, resulting in an estimated \$7,296 additional revenue.

Virus Laboratory

All existing test fees are increased by approximately 4.5% due to increased labor costs, resulting in an estimated \$3,786 additional revenue.

Molecular Laboratory

All existing test fees are increased by approximately 4.5% due to increased labor costs, resulting in an estimated \$1,237 additional revenue.

The overall increase in revenue for FY 19-20 Public Health Laboratory services is estimated at \$64,060.

Productivity, Efficiency and Customer Service Improvement Plan for Public Health Laboratory

- Complete an electronic laboratory report connection with regional hospital partners by executing a contract with a federally licensed Health Information Exchange, to drive laboratory results directly into patient files.
- Streamline and standardize internal procedures and workflows to improve efficiency and quality of customer service. For example, the lab shared drive was reorganized and staff now save documentation pertinent to lab operations on this drive, accessible to all. A group email was instituted for outside clients to use, improving communication lines.

Summary of Expected Results

- The Public Health Laboratory will be linked electronically to hospital partners to provide health test information in a timely and reliable manner.
- Improved communications, efficiency, and improved level of customer service.

Summary of Results of Prior Year Plan

- Reorganization of the lab shared drive enabled the new lab director to easily find lab documents pertaining to lab operations. Communications from clients on the group email are attended to promptly by staff when the point person is not available.