

Date: July 18, 2017
To: All Physicians and All Zones
From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)
Re: Changes to Rubella and Varicella Zoster Virus Antibody Reporting

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Key Messages:

1. Individuals are considered protected from infection (i.e. are immune to the virus) when their:
 - Rubella IgG titers are >10 IU/ml
 - Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) IgG is positive
2. Do not continue to test for immunity (IgG) to these viruses once an individual is considered protected.
3. If the laboratory receives a sample for testing rubella IgG or VZV IgG after a patient has been reported to be immune, subsequent laboratory requests will be cancelled with the following comments:
 - This patient previously tested positive for Rubella IgG. As IgG levels >10 IU/ml are generally considered protective, repeat testing will not be performed.
 - OR
 - This patient previously tested positive for Varicella IgG. As positive IgG levels are generally considered protective, repeat testing will not be performed.
4. The protective threshold for rubella initially was >15 IU/ml. Extensive analysis of the Alberta population indicates that patients with 10-15 IU/ml also have immunity (1).
 - All patients with values >10 IU/ml will now be reported as positive for rubella IgG.

How this will impact you:

- New testing algorithms and rubella interpretation cut offs will be implemented on **July 24, 2017**.
- This will affect routine and prenatal orders.
- New rubella interpretations can be applied to previous lab results.

	<u>New Rubella Interpretation</u>	<u>Old Rubella Interpretation</u>
Interpretation	Rubella IgG (IU/ml)	
Negative	≤10	<10
Indeterminate		10-15
Positive	>10	>15

Action Required: When a patient has rubella titres ≤10 IU/ml, or is varicella negative, and has <2 doses of MMR(V), (postpartum) vaccination should be recommended.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, ProvLab

(1) Determining Rubella Immunity in Pregnant Alberta Women 2009-2012. (2015) FY Lai, DC Dover, B Lee, K Fonseca, N Solomon, SS Plitt, J Jaipaul, GA Tipples and CL Charlton, *Vaccine* 33:635-41.