



LABORATORY BULLETIN

29th November 2005

To: Laboratory Directors & Managers

Re: Changes in Reporting Rubella Immunity

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Background: Individuals with rubella IgG antibody levels of less than 10 IU/mL are not immune to rubella infection. Analysis of Provincial Laboratory data on patients with levels close to this threshold, namely between 10 to 15 IU/mL, determined that fluctuating antibody levels and the precision with which these can be measured resulted in some individuals being reported as immune on one occasion and not immune later or, *vice versa*.

Changed Procedure: Effective 1st December, 2005, results for rubella IgG antibody levels in the range of 10 to 15 IU/mL, will be reported as indeterminate, and individuals with these levels should be considered non-immune.

The following comment will be appended to this result indicating that the individual should be offered rubella immunization:

"This patient tested negative/indeterminate for rubella IgG, indicating the probable absence of immunity. All women in the prenatal screening program with negative or indeterminate rubella IgG results should be offered MMR vaccine after delivery, preferably while in hospital. Alternatively, contact your local MOH or Public Health Centre for MMR administration to the mother at the time of her infant's immunization at 2 months of age. Other individuals with negative/indeterminate rubella IgG results should also be offered a rubella containing vaccine if their history of immunization is uncertain; consult your local MOH or Public Health Centre."

For additional information, please contact Dr. Kevin Fonseca:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kevin Fonseca".

Kevin Fonseca Ph.D D(ABMM)
Clinical Virologist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jutta Preiksaitis".

Dr. Jutta Preiksaitis
Medical Director