

To: Clients of URMCLabs

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Re: Reporting Change: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Antibody

Date: September 25, 2012

Beginning 10/1/2012, the URMCL Serology Lab will change test reports for antibody to Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella. Results previously reported as immune will now read positive. Results previously reported as susceptible will now read negative.

This change is being adopted to increase accuracy and to match the reporting of major national reference laboratories. Determining whether a patient is immune or susceptible to a given organism is more complex than antibody status. However, antibody status can be an acceptable surrogate for immunity and non-immunity. Patients with detectable antibody or "positive" can be considered "immune" and those without antibody or "negative" can be viewed as susceptible (non-immune). The reporting of 'equivocal' results will not change for those samples with results that are in-between the positive and negative ranges for these tests.

If you have any questions or need assistance with this information, please contact the Supervisor of the Serology laboratory Daniel Wheeler.
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