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**LABORATORY UPDATE****3 September 2019**

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**Measles immunity/IgG testing in the community**

Labtests has had numerous patients referred by their medical practitioners for measles IgG testing. There appears to be some confusion around eligibility for immunity testing despite recent advisories from Auckland Regional Public Health Service on this matter.

Measles IgG testing is not a scheduled test. Contact tracing is usually initiated and directed by public health. However, in the context of the current measles outbreak, measles IgG is funded ONLY for referrals from registered medical practitioners for individuals that are a close contact of a confirmed case with measles. The referrer must indicate this on the form.

Measles IgG is not funded in all other cases, for example where individuals have not had contact with person with measles but wish to check their immunity status, in such circumstances they will be charged at the collection centre for this testing.

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**Restrictions to QuantiFERON-TB Gold testing in the community**

Labtests has recently taken on community referred Quantiferon Gold testing.

In 2016, due to the high prevalence of inappropriately requested tests, we consulted on restricting indications for testing.

The outcome of this consultation was that testing would be performed if:

The request has come directly from Public Health

OR

The test has been requested by, or on behalf of, a vocationally registered internal medicine specialist, AND is accompanied by the clinical indication for testing

These restrictions will come into effect from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and clinicians may refer to Guidelines for Tuberculosis Control in New Zealand, 2019 for appropriate indications.

Samples not meeting these criteria will be stored pending additional information and discarded after seven days.