



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Physicians and Allied Health care Staff across Newfoundland and Labrador

RE: Change to collection process for the diagnosis of Latent Mycobacteria Tuberculosis Infection

FROM: NL Provincial Public Health Microbiology Laboratory

DATE: May 10, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Latent mycobacterium tuberculosis infection (LTBI) laboratory testing is performed at PHML by an IFN- γ release assay (IGRA). The manufacturer (Qiagen) has introduced an upgraded testing method to replace the existing method. Specifically, the current QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test is changing to QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) to improve overall test performance and quality of patient care.

Effective May 21, 2019, all the IGRA requests will be processed by the new QFT-Plus method which requires FOUR (4) blood collection tubes. This differs from the current method which is being phased out and requires THREE (3) blood collection tubes.

The old THREE (3) panel testing tubes for QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test will **NO LONGER be processed as of May 21, 2019.**

Clinics and blood collection centers who collect blood specimens for IGRA testing are required to contact PHML for ordering new FOUR (4) blood collection tube sets to ensure the availability of new tubes before May 21, 2019.

Supplies can be ordered by contacting Robert (Bob) Cleary or Dave Holwell at 709-777-7123 or 709-777-6415 respectively, or by faxing your order request to 709-777-6362 attention PHL stores department.

Any other questions related to this change enhancement can be directed to the Office of the Director, PHML at 709 777 7233.

Sincerely,

George Zahariadis MD, FRCPC
Director and Chief, PHML

Hedy Dalton-Kenny, MLT, CLX, B. Tech, MHS
Regional Operations Laboratory Manager

