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New Test for Rubella

The Southcentral Regional Laboratory has added a screening test for the detection of rubella antibody. The Rubacell test is a rapid screen test to determine the immune status of an individual. Results are reported as Positive (immune) or Negative (not immune). There is no titer reported with the Rubacell test, and only a single serum sample is required.

If determining recent infection or contact is the problem, an HAI test will be performed. As usual both acute and convalescent specimens are required to demonstrate a rise in titer.

In order for the laboratory to determine which test to perform, it is necessary that the rubella forms be marked in the appropriate box, i.e., if it is a case, a contact, date of exposure, number of specimen (1st, 2nd, 3rd), pregnancy, trimester, or immune status unknown.

Please collect specimens in sterile tubes using sterile techniques as contamination interferes with these tests.

RUBELLA IN KETCHIKAN

One confirmed case of rubella has occurred in Ketchikan. Four contacts of this case have developed rubelliform rashes, but serologic confirmation of these illnesses is pending. All of these cases involve young adults: that segment of the population with high susceptibility due to lack of exposure to natural infection or active immunization. Unfortunately, it is also the segment of the population with the most pregnant women.