



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired 1-800-735-2966 VOICE 1-800-735-2466

Julia M. Eckstein
Director



Matt Blunt
Governor

November 2006

Dear Health Care Provider:

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory are dedicated to providing core public health services for all Missourians. The laboratory is committed to meeting these objectives while working within the framework of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' strategic plan for the future. Adapting to the changing needs of public health is a crucial component in continuing to provide the best laboratory support possible.

As of November 1, 2006, the State Public Health Laboratory will expand Hepatitis B testing. New testing is described in numbers 2, 5, and 6:

1. Hepatitis B screening and confirmatory tests for newly arriving refugees (children and adults) to determine infection status and/or immunization needs.
2. Hepatitis B screening and confirmatory tests for children vaccinated in foreign countries with vaccine of unknown efficacy to determine infection status and/or immunization needs.
3. HBsAg tests for pregnant women with no other means of paying for them to determine risk of infection to the infant and immunoprophylaxis needs at birth.
4. Anti-HBc (total core) tests for household and sexual contacts of HbsAg-positive pregnant women (children and adults) to determine infection status and/or immunization needs.
5. Anti-HBs post-vaccination testing for sexual and household contacts of HbsAg-positive pregnant women (children and adults), if requested. (This testing may be necessary when subsequent immunization management depends on knowing the immune status because of continued exposure risk. The test must be completed 1-2 months after completion of the vaccine series to determine vaccine-induced immunity).
6. Post exposure testing for Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) workers following a needlestick injury or occupational exposure.

The state lab will not conduct tests for hepatitis B other than outlined above. We hope that your facility will not be greatly inconvenienced by this change. If you have questions regarding this matter, please call Jeannie Ruth, Chief, Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance, at 573-751-6124. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Blank, Dr. P.H., Director
State Public Health Laboratory

Glenda R. Miller, MPH, BSN, BC CHNCS
Director, Division of Community and Public Health

ECB:GRM:JR:LL:vs

www.dhss.mo.gov

Healthy Missourians for life.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for Health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.