



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Dear HETL Client:

HETL is pleased to announce the addition of the **QuantiFERON® TB Gold in-tube interferon gamma release assay (IGRA)**. The IGRA diagnostic test is an FDA approved test and an important advancement for TB disease detection, exposure assessment and surveillance. The CDC's latest TB recommendations include use of IGRA in similar situations where the traditional tuberculin skin test might be used and in place of the TST in certain situations. The IGRA provides a number of enhancements over the TST including:

- No follow up examinations
- Increased specificity including No cross reactivity with patients previously immunized with Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG).
- Objective, reproducible results.

For information on specimen collection, a clinician's guide and CDC IGRA Guidelines Pocket Guide please visit: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/download_forms.htm

Clients wishing to order the test should request test kits from HETL by calling 287-2727.

The current HETL test requisition does have a formal check off for clients wishing to order this test. When submitting specimens please check off QuantiFERON®- TB Gold (**IGRA**) under Mycobacteriology.

The current HETL requisition can be found on our web site: www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab

Direct information for HETL clients wishing to order the Quantiferon IGRA or other tests is available on our website at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/submitting_samples.htm

Please feel free to contact HETL Virology/ Serology regarding this new assay at 207-287-1722.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Pote, Ph.D.
Chief of Laboratory Operations
Me-CDC Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory