



August 31, 2018

Dear OSPHL Clients,

This letter serves to notify you about upcoming changes for QuantiFERON® (QFT) testing at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) which will be implemented by October 2018. Please forward this notice to your colleagues who may need this information.

What is Changing?

Qiagen, the manufacturer of the QuantiFERON® tests, has updated the test to include more comprehensive information about the immune response to *M. tuberculosis* (TB). By October 2018, the OSPHL will change to the new QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) collection and test kits.

QFT-Plus is built on same technology as the previous test for accurate detection of TB with a sensitivity of >94% and a specificity of >97% (1). There will be no changes to test fees with this change.

Specimen Collection, Storage, and Transport

QFT-Plus will completely replace the current QFT product used. The OSPHL will implement this change using the manufacturer's "direct draw" method for specimen collection.

The new collection kit contains four QFT-Plus collection tubes rather than the current three tubes. We will provide new test kits for specimen collection and will no longer accept the old QFT tubes once we transition to the new test.

There will be no changes to specimen storage and transport requirements. For additional information on the new assay, please visit the manufacturer's website at:

<https://www.quantiferon.com/us/>.

Ordering Tests

If your facility utilizes electronic test ordering, the OSPHL Laboratory Information Management System Administrator will contact your electronic health record (EHR) vendor or local EHR team to ensure the new order choice is available for use when the new test is implemented.

The General Microbiology testing staff are working hard to validate this new method in our laboratory. We will send more details in a second letter when we have set an implementation date and are prepared to distribute new test kits.

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If you have questions in the interim, please contact the OSPHL Client Services Coordinator, Sarah Humphrey, at sarah.m.humphrey@state.or.us or 503-693-4124.

Sincerely,

John Fontana, PhD, (HCLD) ABB
OSPHL Director

Reference:

1. *QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) ELISA Package Insert*. 1095849 Rev. 02 August 2017.