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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/1/2024

TO: All WSLH Submitter and Partners

FROM: The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Communicable Disease Division

**SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) IgM Testing - Effective 2/1/24**

We would like to bring to your attention an update regarding Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) IgM Testing at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), effective February 1, 2024.

**Background:**

The WSLH is committed to supporting Wisconsin's testing needs, focusing on surveillance, underserved populations, wards of the state, and testing for new, rare, or difficult-to-diagnose pathogens.

**Reason for Discontinuation:**

A recent review of our records indicates a significantly low demand for VZV IgM testing at WSLH. Furthermore, it is no longer recommended for the diagnosis of infection<sup>1</sup>. Those still requiring VZV IgM testing are advised to utilize reference laboratories offering this service.

**Continued Support:**

While discontinuing VZV IgM testing, WSLH remains committed to providing support through recommended VZV IgG, PCR, and molecular typing assays to facilitate accurate diagnosis and contribute to public health response efforts.

**Contact Information:**

For any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact our Customer Service department 1-800-862-1013

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we adapt our testing services to align with evolving healthcare standards.

Sincerely,



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Assistant Professor, DPLM, SMPH, UW-Madison

**Reference:**

1. Laboratory Confirmation of Suspected Varicella. CDC. April 28, 2021.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/chickenpox/lab-testing/lab-tests.html#lab-criteria-diagnosis>

