



July 14, 2014

Dear Health Care Providers,

The Alaska State Virology Lab (ASVL) will no longer offer a 3rd Generation Antibody (3<sup>rd</sup> Gen) test for HIV screening after August 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, per CDC recommendation.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2014, CDC updated its testing recommendations for the diagnosis of HIV infection. The recommendation endorses the **exclusive** use of the 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Antigen/Antibody Combination (4<sup>th</sup> Gen) test for HIV screening because it is more sensitive and can detect infection earlier. For more information please read CDC's recommendation at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/lab/guidelines>.

ASVL began using BioRad's 4<sup>th</sup> Gen HIV screening test in July of 2012 and this is the test you are now familiar with; however, we also kept the BioRad 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen test onboard for those few specimens that did not meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Gen's more stringent time and temperature specimen requirements. **After August 15<sup>th</sup>, we will only offer the 4<sup>th</sup> Gen test** and all specimens will need to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Gen time and temperature specimen requirements.

Here is a review of the BioRad 4<sup>th</sup> Gen time and temperature specimen requirements:

- *Samples may be stored for no longer than 2 days at room temperature or 7 days at 2-8°C including the time that samples are in transit .*
- *For long term storage, samples may be spun down and the **serum or plasma frozen** within 2 days at room temperature or 7 days at 2-8°C.*
- *Samples are to be shipped at 2-8 °C (use a cool Pak) and in compliance with Federal Regulations.*

If your facility has difficulty meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Gen time and temperature specimen requirements, please call us. I'm sure we can find a way to make this work.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bond, MS MT  
ASVL, Lab Manager

Darla Madden  
July 15, 2014  
Page 2

Phone: 371-1000 e-mail: [bonnie.bond@alaska.gov](mailto:bonnie.bond@alaska.gov)