



## VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS (VZV) ANTIBODY

**Synonym(s):** Varicella Zoster IgG, VZV IgG Ab, VZV IgG, VZV IgG Rapid (Call Lab First), VZV IgM, VZV IgM Ab, Varicella Zoster IgM, VZV Total Antibody, VZV CF Antibody

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<b>Lab Section Category</b>	<b>Virology</b> Click here to find out more about the <b>write-up</b> ( <a href="/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/virology.aspx">/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/virology.aspx</a> ).
<b>Description</b>	VZV IgM Antibody (anti-VZV IgM)  VZV IgG Antibody (anti-VZV IgG)  VZV Total CF Antibody (anti-VZV total)  VZV IgG Antibody (anti-VZV IgG Rapid)
<b>Specimen Required</b>	3 – 5 mL plain blood.  (a) To diagnose acute varicella infection, send single acute sample for <b>VZV IgM antibody</b> and a second serum take two weeks later for <b>VZV total CF antibody</b> on the pair.  (b) To diagnose past infection and immunity, send single sample for <b>VZV IgG antibody</b> .  (c) For urgent screening for immunity, send sample for <b>VZV IgG antibody (Rapid)</b> .
<b>Storage and Transport</b>	Refrigerate samples if delay in transporting to laboratory is anticipated. <b>Do not freeze.</b>

<b>Method</b>	<p>Anti-VZV IgM: Immunofluorescence assay</p> <p>Anti-VZV IgG: Enzyme Immunoassay</p> <p>Anti-VZV total: Complement Fixation Test</p> <p>Anti-VZV IgG (Rapid): Enzyme linked fluorescence assay (for urgent testing)</p>
<b>Test Result</b>	<p><b>Acute infection:</b> Single sample positive for VZV IgM Ab and/or paired sera showing <math>\geq 4</math> fold rise in total CF Ab titres.</p> <p><b>Immunity:</b> VZV IgG Ab present. Where antibody levels are low, this will be indicated on the report.</p>
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	<p><b>Urgent cases:</b></p> <p>Anti-VZV IgM : 3 – 4 hrs</p> <p>Anti-VZV IgG (Rapid): 1 – 2 hrs</p> <p><b>Routine cases:</b></p> <p>Anti-VZV IgM: &lt;1 – 4 days</p> <p>Anti-VZV IgG: &lt;1 – 7 days</p> <p>Anti-VZV total: 1 – 6 days after acute or second sample</p>
<b>Day(s) Test Set up</b>	<p>Anti-VZV IgM/IgG (Rapid) : Stat for urgent cases  Anti-VZV IgM : Tuesday and Friday  Anti-VZV IgG : Tuesday  Anti-VZV total : Tuesday and Thursday</p>

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