

To: Penn Medicine Physicians and Staff
Date: March 1, 2023

From: Eline T. Luning Prak, MD, PhD
Joyce Gonzalez, BS, M (ASCP)
Andrew Gaano, BS

Re: **Discontinuation of SARS-CoV-2 Serology, antibody, immunoassay (RBD assessment)**

Beginning on March 1, 2023, the HUP Clinical Immunology Laboratory will be discontinuing the SARS-CoV-2 RBD IgG assay (SARS-CoV-2 serology, antibody, immunoassay (RBD assessment)). This assay uses the receptor binding domain (RBD) of the Wuhan (alpha) strain of SARS-CoV-2, which is several generations removed from the predominant circulating viral strain. Vaccines are now also including other variants such as omicron. Given the increasing complexity and variability of a patient's vaccination and exposure history at this phase in the pandemic, serology assays are very challenging to interpret. In addition, Tixagevimab/Cilgavimab, sold under the brand name Evusheld, is no longer authorized for pre-exposure prophylaxis as it is not likely to be protective against most circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2. For these reasons, we are discontinuing the SARS-CoV-2 RBD IgG assay.

For clinical questions related to this change, please contact the Immunology Resident at 215-980-9871. For any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Luning Prak (luning@pennmedicine.upenn.edu). For operational questions related to this change, please contact Joyce Gonzalez at Joyce.Gonzalez@pennmedicine.upenn.edu or 215-662-6023.