



Rotavirus Testing

There has been a marked decline in the incidence of rotavirus infection since the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine (www.immune.org.nz/diseases/rotavirus) to the National Immunisation schedule in July 2014.

Due to the resounding success of the rotavirus vaccine, the positivity rate in the tested population is now just over 1%. It is now essentially a rare cause of infectious diarrhoea in New Zealand. Only 61 positive cases were recorded in the whole of the Midlands region during 2015 and 2016.

For further rotavirus surveillance data, see this national report document on the ESR website: (https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/Rotavirus/2015Rotavirus.pdf)

As a result of this recent change in disease prevalence, testing for rotavirus will now only be performed by the laboratory if any of the following circumstances apply:

- Hospital in-patients or A&E attendees.
- Where the clinical details suggest potential implications for Public Health, e.g. a childcare centre attendee or employee, or if the patient is part of a “cluster” of cases.
- On the approval of a Clinical Microbiologist or a Medical Officer of Health.

This change in testing will take place from **1st November 2017**. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions with regards to this change.

Please could this update be distributed to all GPs and Practice Nurses at your Health Centre.

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CLINICAL UPDATE