

Titer and Vaccination Explanations – Qualitative vs. QUANTITATIVE

PLEASE READY CAREFULLY TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY!!

Serum titers are blood tests that measure whether or not you are immune to a given disease. More specifically, a quantitative serum titer, is a titer with a numerical value indicating your actual degree or immunity to a disease(s). Those in the health sciences and working at clinical sites require documented proof of immunity in the form of quantitative titers. Simply getting the vaccination is not enough. Therefore, each student must have QUANTITATIVE titers drawn and keep copies of the official laboratory printouts containing the numerical values for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B and Varicella immunity.

Avoid common pitfalls:

1. If you do not have a record of the previous vaccinations you have received, get your titers drawn first. WHY
 - a. Your titers may indicate a high immunity to a specific disease
 - b. If so, you may not need to get vaccinated for that disease
2. Please get the specific titers we require and they must be QUANTITATIVE
 - a. Quantitative vs. Qualitative titers – quantitative titers have a numerical value and qualitative titers simply indicate immune vs. non-immune with no numerical value
 - b. If you do not submit quantitative titers, we will ask you to have them repeated.
 - c. IgG vs IgM – you need IgG titers: DO NOT get labs for IgM titers
 - d. HbsAB IgG vs. HbsAG IgG (for Hepatitis) – you need HepB AB (antibody) titers, DO NOT get Hep B AG (antigen) titers
3. If the titer shows that you are non-immune or negative, you need to get vaccinated or revaccinated (booster shots) BEFORE you come to campus.
4. Once vaccinated, titers should not be drawn until 6-8 weeks after the vaccination. WHY?
 - a. If titers are drawn too soon after the vaccination, the results will indicate non-immunity
 - b. Do not make the mistake of having the titer drawn too early

NEXT STEPS IF YOUR QUANTITATIVE TITERS COME BACK NON-IMMUNE

1. Consult your physician about your vaccination history. How many immunizations have you already received for the disease (s)?
2. If you have not received the vaccine series, start it now for the non-immune disease. If you are in the middle, complete the series.
3. If you have completed the series, you will need to have boosters for that disease.
4. After completing the series, or getting the booster, wait 6-8 weeks to get a follow up titer. DO NOT GET THE TITER DRAWN TOO EARLY.

WHAT IF THE FOLLOW-UP TITER STILL COMES BACK NON-IMMUNE

1. If you have received all the immunizations possible (completed the series and gotten boosters) and you are still non-immune, you may not convert.
2. Please contact your physician for next steps