

## TESTING FOR IMMUNITY TO VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

### WHY?

#### To learn whether you have natural immunity or need to be vaccinated

Natural immunity to disease develops once a person is exposed to or becomes sick with that disease. For example, people born and raised in Latin America, Asia, Africa, the Mideast, or Eastern Europe often are exposed to hepatitis A during childhood and develop natural immunity. If you think you may have natural immunity to a disease, it may make sense to test your immunity before proceeding with vaccination.

#### To check your response to hepatitis B vaccine

The hepatitis B vaccine is highly effective for most people, but if you are  $\geq 40$  years old, obese, or you smoke cigarettes you are less likely to respond fully to the vaccine. After you complete the hepatitis B vaccine series, a blood test for immunity can tell you whether you are protected against hepatitis B or not.

#### To make sure you are protected against a disease you are likely to encounter

A blood test for immunity can tell you whether you are protected.

#### To learn whether your immune system responded to vaccination

Vaccines rely on your immune system to make protective antibodies. When the immune system is impaired, your body may not respond fully to vaccination. Examples of impaired immunity:

- ◆ HIV disease with symptoms or low CD4 count
- ◆ Blood or bone marrow cancer
- ◆ Immunosuppressive medications such as cancer chemotherapy or high-dose steroids
- ◆ Advanced kidney or liver disease
- ◆ Diabetes

After you receive a vaccine, a blood test for immunity can tell you whether the vaccine worked or not.

#### To document your immunity for work, school, or immigration

Many organizations require evidence of vaccination or immunity to certain diseases. If you think you may have natural immunity or may already have been vaccinated, a blood test for immunity can provide the evidence.

### HOW?

A blood sample is needed. Tests of immunity can be performed at any time, but to determine whether a vaccine worked, the test is best performed 1-2 months after the vaccine is given.

We routinely offer testing for immunity to the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

DISEASE	TEST FOR IMMUNITY
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	Hepatitis A Antibody, Total
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Hepatitis B Surface Antibody
<b>Measles</b>	Measles (rubeola) IgG Antibody
<b>Mumps</b>	Mumps IgG Antibody
<b>Rubella (German Measles)</b>	Rubella IgG Antibody
<b>Chickenpox (Varicella)</b>	Varicella IgG Antibody
<b>Rabies</b>	RFFIT

**FOR TEST RESULTS:** Contact AITC in 1 week to learn the results of your tests and discuss what they mean for you. 101 Grove Street, Room 102 San Francisco, CA (415) 554-2625