

Department of Clinical Microbiology and Infection

RD&E (Wonford)

Church Lane

Exeter

EX2 5AD

Tel: 01392 402962

www.exeterlaboratory.com

17th August 2021

Dear Colleague

Cessation of Complement Fixation Testing (CFT)

We are writing to inform you that the Microbiology department at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital will be ceasing all Complement Fixation Testing on 30th August 2021.

We regularly undertake quality improvement reviews and in common with the majority of other large microbiology diagnostic service providers, the COVID-19 pandemic response has necessitated a focus on clinical utility and efficiency. Accordingly, the decision has been made to cease all Complement Fixation Testing on the 30th August 2021.

This is in part due to the extension of respiratory molecular diagnostics, and the availability of Mycoplasma and Chlamydia DNA detection in many of these. Furthermore, CFT reagents will no longer be CE marked from the 31st December 2021. This was a phased planned removal but due to unusually difficult staffing pressures and large scale pandemic activities we have had to bring this forward and provide shorter notice than we would normally.

Q fever testing (on blood) is available via Porton Down.

We are sorry for any difficulty this may cause. If there are any queries or comments relating to these changes please contact one of us.

Yours sincerely

Dr Cressida Auckland
Clinical Lead Microbiology and Infection
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Microbiology Department
Church Lane
Exeter
EX2 5AD
Tel: 01392 402962
rde-tr.MicroConsultants@nhs.net

Mrs Stella Roberts
Virology Lead BMS
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Microbiology Department
Church Lane
Exeter
EX2 5AD
Tel: 01392 402962
rde-tr.MicroConsultants@nhs.net