

## — Infections

Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms; such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but some organisms under certain conditions may cause disease.

Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person while some are transmitted via bites from insects or animals. Others are acquired by ingesting contaminated food or water or other exposures in the environment.

Signs and symptoms vary, but often include fever and chills. Mild complaints may respond to home remedies, while some life-threatening infections may require hospitalization.

### Viral Infections

Viruses are capsules with genetic material inside. They are very tiny, much smaller than bacteria. Viruses cause familiar infectious diseases such as the common cold, flu and warts but they can also cause severe illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, smallpox and hemorrhagic fevers. Viruses can invade normal cells and use those cells to multiply and produce other viruses like themselves. This eventually kills the cells, which can cause illness. Viral infections are hard to treat because viruses live inside your body's cells. They are "protected" from medicines, which usually move through your bloodstream. Antibiotics do not work for viral infections. However, there are a limited number of antiviral medicines available. Vaccines can help prevent you from getting many viral diseases.

VARICELLA ZOST...

0.15

Range: See Comments

### VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS ANTIBODY (IGM)

#### Result Comments



Value	Interpretation
0.00-0.90	Negative
0.91-1.09	Equivocal
>=1.10	Positive

Results from any one IgM assay should not be used as a sole determinant of a current or recent infection. Because an IgM test can yield false positive results and low levels of IgM antibody may persist for more than 12 months post infection, reliance on a single test result could be misleading. If an acute infection is suspected, consider obtaining a new specimen and submit for both IgG and IgM testing in two or more weeks.