



Department of Health

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New York State Tissue Resources Program

Policy – Testing for Immunity to Rubella

Effective date – 08/18/2020

Valid until – Regulatory or policy change supersedes this policy

Donors of human milk must be screened for immunity to rubella, but need not be tested for immunity within 30 days prior to the first donation.

10 NYCRR Part 52-9.5(c) requires that one month prior to the first donation, donors of human milk be found immune to rubella. Pregnant women are routinely tested for immunity to rubella during their pregnancy, and the immunity is expected to continue for years, well beyond the period when they would be expressing milk to donate. For those found to be non-immune, the MMR vaccine is recommended and is not contraindicated for breastfeeding by CDC.

The Department will no longer enforce the 30-day window for testing for immunity to rubella. Milk banks shall screen donors to ensure they have been found immune to rubella, or received the MMR vaccine, prior to their first donation.