TN Department of Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Health Department Clinicians**

FROM: **Richard Steece, PhD, D(ABMM)**
Laboratory Director

DATE: **October 14, 2020**

SUBJECT: **Discontinuation of Viral Cultures**

NOTICE: DISCONTINUATION OF VIRAL CULTURES

In an effort to comply with the Governor's priority for fiscal strength and efficient government, viral culture testing will be discontinued. By eliminating costs associated with maintaining low volume manual testing, we can focus our priorities on laboratory testing that is more beneficial to the people of Tennessee.

Effective November 2, 2020, the Tennessee Department of Health will discontinue all viral cultures including Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV), and Enterovirus Culture (EVD). It is still possible to obtain approval for a PCR-based VZV test. Though the TN Public Health Laboratory (TNPHL) may elect to develop molecular assays for CMV and EV, clinicians can either check with commercial laboratories for testing availability or contact the Centers for Disease Control regarding submission authorizations though the TNPHL.

For questions regarding this change, please contact Bryan Mason, Virology and Immunoserology Manager, at 615-262-6350 or Bryan.P.Mason@tn.gov.