

THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AN ACT REQUIRING A SEROLOGICAL TEST  
FOR SYPHILIS OF PREGNANT WOMEN

Dear Doctor:

Your attention is called to an amendment of the General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 121A, which provides that:—

Every physician attending a pregnant woman in Massachusetts during gestation shall, in the case of each woman so attended, take or cause to be taken a sample of blood of such woman at the time of first examination, and shall submit such sample for a standard serological test for syphilis to a laboratory of the state department of public health or to a laboratory approved for this test by the department; provided, that not more than one physician attending such a pregnant woman during gestation shall be required to take or cause to be taken such a sample.

This amendment becomes effective on November 1, 1939.

Although, at present, blood tests to be made as required by this law may be made only at the Wassermann Laboratory of the State Department of Public Health at 240 Longwood Avenue, Boston, it is anticipated that other laboratories will be approved as time goes on. Before sending specimens to another laboratory, however, it should be ascertained that the laboratory is approved under the provisions of this section.

Yours truly,

PAUL J. JAKMAUH, M.D.,

Commissioner of Public Health