

VIROLOGY TESTS

Investigation	Test	Sample	Container	TAT	Limitations	Out-of-Hours	Rejection Criteria
Antenatal Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	requests for HIV test must be clearly indicated and signed	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
ASO Titres	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Atypical Pneumonia	Antigen Detection	broncho-alveolar lavage	universal (white top)	1 day	please contact lab if urgent processing is required for PCP	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Avian precipitins	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Bone Donor Screen	Antigen Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	N/A	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Borrelia (Lymes Disease) Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details/date of onset/risk factors	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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Cat Scratch Fever	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Chickenpox Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	1 day (urgent) 7 days (normal)	please contact lab if urgent processing is required	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Chlamydia Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
CMV PCR	Antigen Detection	EDTA sample	purple-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
CMV Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Conjunctival Chlamydia Infection	Immunofluorescence	conjunctival scrape fixed to specific slide	slide obtained from laboratory	1 day	requires good amount of cellular material	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Coxiella (Q fever) Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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EBV PCR	Antigen Detection	EDTA sample	purple-top vacutainer	5 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
EBV Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Enterovirus Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Farmers Lung Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Genital Chlamydia Infection	DNA Detection by PCR	urine	universal (white top)	1-2 days	patient should not have urinated for 2 hours prior to specimen collection	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Genital Chlamydia Infection	DNA Detection by PCR	endocervical swab	chlamydia transport swab	1-2 days	none	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Helicobacter Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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Hepatitis A Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	3 days	clinical details are essential for processing, especially onset date	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Hepatitis B Antibody	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	vaccination history required for full interpretation of result	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Hepatitis B Core Antibody	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	3 days	requests must be clearly indicated and signed on the request form	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Hepatitis C Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	3 days	requests must be clearly indicated and signed on the request form	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
HIV Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	3 days	requests for HIV test must be clearly indicated and signed	no	form / sample labelling error; request form not signed
HSV Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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HTLV Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Leptospira Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details/date of onset/risk factors	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Measles Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Measles Immunity	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Mumps Immunity	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Mumps Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Mycoplasma Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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Parvovirus Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Pertussis Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset, vaccination history	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Pneumococcal antibody	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Respiratory Virus Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details/date of onset. Legionella serology no longer available. Send plain urine for antigen detection	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Rheumatoid Factor	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
RSV Detection	Antigen Detection	nasopharyngeal aspirate	trap bottle	<1day	none	Saturday and Sunday morning, by arrangement only	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Rubella Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container

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Serum storage (needlestick injury)	Serum storage	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	N/A	clinical details, date of onset, donor details	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Syphilis Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Tetanus Serology	Antibody detection	clotted blood	red top vacutainer	14 days	clinical details, date of onset, vaccination history	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Toxoplasma Serology	Antibody Detection	clotted blood	red-top vacutainer	7 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Urine Legionella Test	Antigen Detection	urine	universal (white top)	<1 day	please contact lab if urgent processing required	Saturday and Sunday morning, by arrangement only	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container
Viral Culture	Virus Detection	viral transport swab	transport swab (green top)	28 days	clinical details are essential for processing	no	form / sample labelling error; leaking specimen container