



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Anchorage Public Health Laboratory
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Main: 907.334.2100
Fax: 907.334.2161

Date: Thursday, June 13th, 2024

To: Our Valued Providers

From: Theresa Savidge, CPH, M(ASCP)^{CM}

Thru: Jayme Parker, HCLD(ABB), PhD, MSPH, MB(ASCP)^{CM}

Subj: Syphilis and Other Testing Updates

Please see the newest version of our test request form for your use:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Documents/publications/AncTestReq.pdf>

There are several changes to note:

- *M. genitalium* NAAT testing has been added
- Carbapenem Resistance Testing has been added under the Reportable Organism Submission section

Additionally, per the Governor's Healthy Families initiative to eliminate congenital syphilis, there are now more boxes in the Syphilis section:

- Please check '**Syphilis Screen**' and we will perform a Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) assay
 - If the RPR is REACTIVE, we will confirm the result with an Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody (FTA) test, provided that we have not already performed an FTA for this patient
 - A REACTIVE FTA indicates that the person has had, or currently has, a syphilis infection
 - It may be possible to have a REACTIVE RPR, a very low titer of 1:1, and a NON-REACTIVE FTA. In these instances, a comment will appear on the Final Report stating "*Non-treponemal antibodies detected. Clinical evaluation should be performed to identify signs, symptoms or past history of infection. If recent exposure is suspected, redraw sample in 2-4 weeks.*"
- **The pregnancy status of the person being tested**

OR

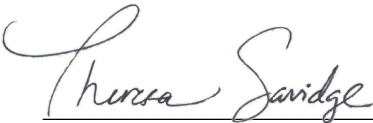
- Please check 'Syphilis Exposure/Symptoms/Outbreak' if the sample was collected accordingly and we will perform an RPR and FTA

AND

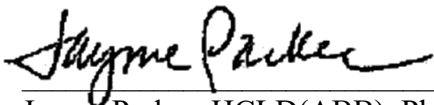
- If a Rapid Syphilis Test has already been performed, please fill out:
 - Which rapid test was used (Syphilis Health Check or the name of another test)
 - The result of the rapid test
 - Whether the rapid test was performed as part of an Epidemiological Investigation

Lastly, Trichomonas submissions will only be tested if there is an MOA in place between the provider and the laboratory, as it is a fee-for-service test. Please contact the lab if you wish to establish Trichomonas testing.

Sincerely,

 6/13/2024

Theresa Savidge, CPH, M(ASCP)^{CM}
Public Health Microbiologist 3
Clinical Microbiology Unit Manager

 6/13/2024

Jayme Parker, HCLD(ABB), PhD, MSPH, MB(ASCP)^{CM}
Health Program Manager 4, Chief
CLIA Director