

AUGUST 30, 2019



Montana Laboratory Sentinel

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

New HSV Collection Tubes

We are encouraging lesion swabs for Herpes testing to be collected using these new devices. Please distribute to your providers as needed. Please click [here](#) for a copy of the product insert from Hologic. Thank you for your help and continued support.

New HSV Collection Tubes

Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.



Use to collect lesion fluid for HSV testing.
Also use for vaginal, rectal, throat, or penile swab specimen collection for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea testing.
See attachment for more collection information



Questions? Order Supplies
Please contact us
(406) 444-3444
For testing send tubes to
Montana Public Health Laboratory.

Herpes Swab Specimen Collection

Note: Do not use disinfectants or cleaners on the lesion before the specimen is collected.

1. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.
2. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line. Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.
3. If needed, expose the base of the lesion to access fluid.
4. Vigorously swab the base of the lesion to absorb the fluid, being careful not to draw blood. Withdraw the swab without touching any other site outside the lesion.
5. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection kit.
6. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.
7. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.
8. Discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
9. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.

Save the Date!! Coming in October to Helena!

Packaging and Shipping Category A—October 10th Agents of Bioterrorism—October 11

More information to come!!

Syphilis testing at MTPHL

Beginning September 9th, 2019, the Montana Public Health Laboratory Serology Department will employ a “**reverse syphilis testing algorithm**” for the screening and serodiagnosis of syphilis. This testing sequence differs from the traditional algorithm in that patient samples are first screened with a treponemal antibody assay (IgG); reactive samples are then tested by quantitative VDRL which is used to assess disease activity. Discrepant IgG and VDRL results are resolved by a second treponemal test (TP-PA) as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Benefits of a reverse algorithm are:

1. an automated screening test which decreases turn-around times
2. enhanced ability to identify past infections that would be undetected with the traditional algorithm
3. the potential to detect early infections sooner. As with all laboratory tests, results must be interpreted in conjunction with the patient’s exposure history and clinical presentation.

For more information about syphilis testing, diagnosis, and treatment please visit the following CDC links.

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/default.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/treatment.htm>

Diagnostic Testing Information

- **Test Name:** Syphilis Screen with Reflex Confirmation
- **Methodology:**
 - Bio-Rad Evolis (Enzyme immunoassay)
 - Price: **\$38**
 - CPT Code: 86780 (Treponemal Antibody)
 - VDRL Titer
 - Price (*Cost added only if VDRL titer is needed*): **\$31.50**
 - CPT Code: 86593 (Quantitative Non-treponemal Antibody)
 - Treponemal particle agglutination test (TP-PA)
 - Price (*Cost added only TP-PA is needed*): **\$38**
 - CPT Code: 86780 (Treponemal Antibody) TPPA
- **Specimen types:** 1-3 ml serum or 10 ml vacutainer, no additives
- **Turn-around Time:** 1-5 days

Syphilis Reverse Algorithm Testing Flow Chart

