



# DSHS Chagas Disease (*Trypanosoma cruzi*) Exposure Assessment and Testing Guidance

1

Person exposed or potentially exposed to a triatomine bug and the bug or photo of the bug is available for identification

- Email the digital photo(s) to DSHS at [bonny.mayes@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:bonny.mayes@dshs.texas.gov), [whitney.qualls@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:whitney.qualls@dshs.texas.gov) and [the.vet@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:the.vet@dshs.state.tx.us)
- If bug appears to be a triatomine or no photo is available, send the bug to DSHS for identification and testing (instructions and submission form are available on the DSHS Chagas [page](#)).
  - If the bug is not a triatomine, the person is NOT at risk for Chagas disease
  - If the bug tests **positive** for *T. cruzi*, go to process 2 or 3, depending on timeframe
  - If the bug tests **negative** for *T. cruzi*, the person is NOT at risk for Chagas disease
- If the bug appears to be a triatomine, but is not available for testing and you wish to pursue clinical testing, go to process 2

2

Person tests positive at a blood bank  
**OR**  
 Person exposed or potentially exposed to a *T. cruzi* positive triatomine bug >8 weeks prior  
**OR**  
 Person with onset of cardiac disease compatible with chronic Chagas disease  
**OR**  
 Person with Chagas-positive mother or sibling  
**OR**  
 Person potentially exposed to blood or tissue from an infected person or animal >8 weeks prior (e.g. needlestick injury, tissue transplant)

- Perform serology at a commercial lab

**Negative** serology – person does NOT have Chagas disease

**Positive** serology – request that any remaining sample be forwarded to the DSHS lab or collect a new sample and send to DSHS lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas Disease” in Section 9: CDC Reference Tests on the G2A submission form)

3

Person exposed or potentially exposed to a *T. cruzi* positive triatomine bug ≤8 weeks prior  
**OR**  
 Person traveled to a Chagas-endemic area and has acute symptoms  
**OR**  
 Person potentially exposed to blood or tissue from an infected person or animal ≤8 weeks prior (e.g. needlestick injury, tissue transplant)

- Prior to sample submission, consult with Regional DSHS Zoonosis Control staff to 1) determine if PCR testing is warranted, and 2) to discuss other testing options
- If CDC agrees to test by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS Lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas Disease” in Section 9: CDC Reference Tests on the G-2A submission form)
- If CDC recommends serologic testing instead of PCR testing, the sample should be sent to a commercial lab (follow process 2)

- If the person is confirmed **positive** at the CDC, consult with CDC staff regarding clinical evaluation, management, and treatment\* of Chagas disease
- If the person tests **negative** at CDC, the person does NOT have Chagas disease

\* Benznidazole approved by FDA for use in children 2-12 years of age; Nifurtimox is available as an investigational drug through CDC

# Major Commercial Labs that Currently Perform Chagas Ab Testing

## ➤ Mayo Medical Lab

- ELISA for *T. cruzi* IgG: <http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/test-catalog/Overview/86159>

## ➤ ARUP

- ELISA for *T. cruzi* IgG: <http://ltd.aruplab.com/Tests/Pub/0051076>

## ➤ Quest Diagnostics

- *Trypanosoma cruzi* Antibody, IgG:  
<http://www.questdiagnostics.com/testcenter/TestDetail.action?tabName=OrderingInfo&ntc=946>  
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Disclaimer of Endorsement: Reference herein to any specific commercial laboratory or test does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Texas Department of State Health Services.