



Process 1

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

- Email the digital photo(s) to DSHS at the.vet@dshs.texas.gov
- 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**

- If the person tests **Positive**, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/chagas/hcp/clinical-care/index.html> for information on Chagas disease evaluation and treatment
- If the person tests **Negative**, the person does NOT have Chagas disease
- If the person tests **Inconclusive**, consult with Regional DSHS Zoonosis Control staff

Process 2

Person tests positive at a blood bank
OR
Person exposed or potentially exposed to a 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 screening at the DSHS lab (uses TWO tests that detect antibodies to different antigens) OR a commercial lab (see page 2 for lab information).

Negative Serology
Person does NOT have Chagas disease

Positive Serology @ DSHS lab
OR a commercial lab that utilizes two or more tests that detect antibodies to different antigens^^ - see p. 2
Results indicate the presence of antibodies to *T. cruzi*

Inconclusive* Serology OR a single Positive/Reactive screening test^ - see p. 2
Public health should request that any remaining sample be forwarded to the DSHS lab & notify provider **OR** the provider can collect a new sample and send to DSHS.

Process 3

Person exposed or potentially exposed to a *T. cruzi*-infected triatomine bug ≤8 weeks prior
OR
Person traveled to a highly 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 approves testing by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS lab for routing to the testing center (see page 2 for lab information). If serologic testing (Process 2) or blood smear examination is recommended, the sample should be sent to DSHS or a commercial lab.

*Specimens testing inconclusive at DSHS will be automatically forwarded to CDC for further testing provided sample volume is sufficient.

Major Laboratories that Currently Perform *Trypanosoma cruzi* Testing

- **Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi IgG Antibody Immunoassay](#)
 - Check Chagas IgG box in Section 6 of G-2A form (do not check Chagas Disease box in Section 7)
- **ARUP Laboratories^**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi Antibody, IgG](#)
 - Test Code 0051076
- **Quest Diagnostics^**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi Antibody, Total with Reflex to Confirmation](#)
 - Confirmation is performed at an additional charge (check with Quest for full details on tests performed)
 - Test Code 13230
- **Mayo Clinic Laboratories^**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi Total Antibody, Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay, Serum](#)
- **Kephera Diagnostics^^**
 - [Kephera Diagnostics | Infectious Disease Testing | Order Test](#)
 - Offers 3 serologic tests for Chagas: Wiener ELISA + TESA Blot in Parallel, Reflexed to Multi-Cruzi
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
 - [Chagas Disease Serology](#) and [Chagas Disease Molecular Detection](#) (PCR)
 - Check Chagas Disease box in Section 7 of G-2A form

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.