



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

Rev. 9 -25

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.
- For questions regarding diagnostic considerations, contact CDC's Parasitic Diseases Inquiries (404-718-4745; e-mail chagas@cdc.gov).

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 OR a commercial lab, preferable one that uses TWO tests that detect antibodies to different antigens (see p. 2).

Negative Serology
Person does NOT have Chagas disease

Positive Serology @ DSHS lab OR a commercial lab that utilizes two or more tests (see p. 2). **Positive** results on TWO tests indicates the presence of antibodies to *T. cruzi*.

Inconclusive* Serology OR a **single Positive/Reactive** test result - 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 determine if molecular (qPCR or PCR) testing is warranted - see p. 2 for options.
- If serologic testing (Process 2) or blood smear examination for parasites 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](#) (Wiener & Hemagen ELISA)
 - Check Chagas IgG box in Section 6 of G-2A form (do not check Chagas Disease box in Section 7)
- **ARUP Laboratories**
 - [Trypanosome cruzi Antibody, IgG Panel](#) Test Code 3020058 (Wiener & Hemagen ELISA)
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi Antibody, IgG](#) Test Code 0051076 (Hemagen ELISA)
 - If positive, would need to forward for additional testing.
- **Quest Diagnostics**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi Antibody, Total with Reflex to Confirmation](#) Test Code 13230 (Wiener ELISA)
 - If indeterminate or reactive, a Lateral Flow Assay test is performed.
- **Mayo Clinic Laboratories**
 - [Trypanosoma cruzi \(Chagas\) Antibody Panel, Serum](#) Test Code 86753 (Wiener ELISA & Lateral Flow Assay)
- **Kephera Diagnostics**
 - [Chagas Disease \(Trypanosoma cruzi\)](#) Test Code CH2WT21 (Wiener ELISA, TESA Immunoblot, & Chagas MultiCruzi ELISA)
- **Eurofins-Viracor**
 - [Chagas \(T. cruzi\) qPCR](#) Test Code 33432
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – both tests require CDC Pre-Approval**
 - [Chagas Disease Serology](#) Test Order CDC-10458 [Chagas immunoblot (TESA) only]
 - [Chagas Disease Molecular Detection](#) Test Order CDC-10475 (PCR)
 - Check Chagas Disease box in Section 7 of G-2A form

*As of 9/26/25, these are the current tests offered by the laboratories listed. This list may not include all Chagas disease testing options.

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.