Florida HEALTH
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (Rickettsia), IgG (IFA)
Other Name (s)	N/A
Analyte(s)	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (Rickettsia)
Test Code	1716
Lab location	Jacksonville location
Department	Virology
Prior Authorization	Requires prior approval from your local County Health Department and notification to the testing lab. Contact local County Health Department to start the process for approval.
Required Forms	-Test Requisition Form, DH1847. -Medical History needed on test requisition form (i.e., onset date, collection date, travel history, symptoms, and tick bite history).
Specimen Sources	Paired Sera* collected at least 3 weeks apart or single convalescent serum plus appropriate exposure and symptom history.
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	*Paired Sera Collection: 1. First specimen (acute) collected in red top tube 1-3 days after onset of illness. Separate serum and store refrigerated until second specimen is collected. 2. Second specimen (convalescent) collected in red top tube 10-14 days after first specimen. 3. Ship sera together in the most expedient manner possible.
Minimum Volume	3-5 mL of blood
Storage Conditions	Refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C after collection up to 3 weeks after 3 weeks freeze at -20°C.
Collection Media	Vacutainer (red stopper) or serum separator tube (tiger/red – topped tube).
Specimen Labeling	-Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers, Ex: Name and DOB. -The collection date and time if submitting multiple specimens. **-Information on the specimen must match the requisition.**
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Specimens must be shipped between (2-8°C) or frozen (≤-20°C) on dry ice. Separate multiple specimens into different bags (preferred).
Test Methodology	Indirect Fluorescent Antibody (IFA)
Turnaround Time	7 - 14 days
Result Indicator	Titer and interpretation or no antibody detected.
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Hemolysis and/or Lipemia. Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens, insufficient quantity for testing, incorrect collection tube/transport media, grossly contaminated specimen, disparity between ID on sample and paperwork, improper collection, storage or transport of specimen, no test requested, test requested is not performed. If required, the absence of patient history. If required, the lack of patient history that is compatible with test requested. Test order cancelled by provider, broken, or leaked in transit, etc.
Interferences and Limitations	Hemolysis, increased lipemia, microbial growth, early antibiotic therapy, or unpaired serum.
Additional Information & Notes	Date of onset, tick exposure, clinical symptoms, and recent travel history is required. The first sample should be taken within the first 2 weeks of illness and the second should be taken 2 to 4 weeks later. Requires prior approval from CHD and notification to the testing lab.
Reference Range	Titer and interpretation or no antibody detected.
Reference Lab	CDC if needed
Reflex testing	N/A