

TEST:	Typhus Fever Serology
Synonym:	(Murine typhus); Typhus Fever Antibody; <i>R. typhi</i> serology
Laboratory/Phone:	443-681-3938/3931
Turnaround Time:	5 days
Specimen Required:	Serum
Specimen identification:	Label tube with patients first and last name
Specimen Volume (Optimum):	2 ml.
Specimen Volume (Minimum):	1 ml.
Collect:	Red-top vacutainer
Form:	DHMH 4677
Packaging and Shipping:	See packaging for transport instructions in Guide
Transport Conditions:	Ambient temperature for specimens on the blood clot, separated serum at 2-8°C (refrigerated) or -20°C (frozen).
Specimen Rejection Criteria:	Hemolysis; insufficient volume
Availability:	Monday through Friday
Results and Interpretation:	POSITIVE--Titers $\geq 1:64$ indicate a probable Rickettsial infection NEGATIVE—Titers $<1:64$
Reference Range:	Negative
Additional Information:	A second specimen will usually demonstrate a diagnostic four fold rise in titer for patients with active disease
Purpose of Test:	Detect antibodies to <i>R. rickettsii</i>
Methods:	IFA
Interfering Substances:	Icteric, hemolyzed, lipemic or heat inactivation of specimen
Testing Site:	DHMH Laboratories Administration, Central Laboratory 1770 Ashland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205
Comment:	May not detect a recent infection, or infection in a person with a severely compromised immune system.