



**TO:** All Medical Staff

**FROM:** Justin B. Dalton, M.D. *JBD*  
Director, Clinical Immunology Laboratory

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Interim Chair, Pathology

**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Temporary testing change to Syphilis serology

Syphilis total testing has been suspended during instrument downtime. Therefore, Syphilis total tests will now be done using the rapid plasma reagin (RPR) method for initial screening method. Reactive RPR samples will be titrated and confirmed using the Treponema pallidum particle agglutination (TPPA) test. Previously known positive syphilis patients will not be retested using the TPPA method. Nonreactive RPR tests will be reported as such. This current sequence of testing represents the traditional approach to syphilis serology. It should be noted that the traditional sequence of testing may not necessarily detect disease in patients in latent stages of syphilis infection or those previously treated for syphilis. The syphilis total order will remain active during this temporary testing change. We will resume immunoassay testing for syphilis once the instrument is operational.

For questions, please contact Dr. Justin Dalton at pager #3162 or the laboratory at 628-4000.

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