



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Test Title	Syphilis Treponemal Antibody Confirmation Methodology: TPPA
Sample Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sample type(s): serum or plasma (0.5 mL)2. Rejection criteria: hemolysis, bacterial contamination, multiple freeze-thaw cycles. Do not heat inactivate or freeze plasma
Sampling Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sample container: blood tube or screw cap tube
Procedural Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clinical Test Request Form2. CPT code: 867813. Reflex confirmatory TPPA testing is performed on all serum syphilis specimens with results of weakly reactive or greater.
Shipping Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Temperature/preservative instructions: refrigerated (2-8°C) up to 5 days. For long-term storage, the specimens will be frozen (-20°C or lower).2. Package according to Biological Substance, Category B, shipping guidelines.3. Ship to: Idaho Bureau of Laboratories ATTENTION: Serology Laboratory 2220 Old Penitentiary Rd Boise, ID 83712
Reporting and Turnaround Time (TAT)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. TAT: 3 business days; 1 business day if a known exposure2. This disease must be reported to your local health district or to Idaho Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention according to the rules and regulations governing Idaho reportable diseases (IDAPA 16.02.10).3. Reference range: N/A

Syphilis Interpretation Guidelines

Interpretation of the syphilis test involves careful consideration of the patient's history, symptoms, and antibiotic use. Below is a table to aid in syphilis test interpretation.

RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
VDRL nonreactive AND TPPA reactive	Probable past treated syphilis, but may be untreated late latent syphilis, or false positive TPPA test. This pattern can also be seen in early primary syphilis. Recommend retesting in 2-3 weeks if there is possible recent exposure to syphilis.
VDRL reactive AND TPPA nonreactive	Probable false positive VDRL reaction. This pattern can also be seen in early primary syphilis. Recommend retesting in 2-3 weeks if there is possible recent exposure to syphilis.
VDRL reactive AND TPPA reactive	Consistent with syphilis infection.

Syphilis must be reported by law in Idaho. If results indicate syphilis infection, call the disease reporting line at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare within 7 days (1-800-632-5927) to report the name, sex, and age or birthdate of the patient. The STD/AIDS program has data on past reported cases of syphilis in Idaho. This may include serologic and treatment information about this patient which could prove helpful in your evaluation.

Copies of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's complete STD Treatment Guidelines may be obtained free of charge from your district health department's STD epidemiologist.