



March 23, 2022

To All OSPHL Syphilis Testing Clients,

Beginning April 1, 2022, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) will replace the Syphilis FTA-ABS DS test with the Syphilis TP-PA test.

What is changing?

Beginning April 1, 2022, OSPHL will discontinue syphilis FTA-ABS DS testing and implement the syphilis TP-PA test in its place. Please note the following two key changes:

- Specimen Viability: Specimens should now be transported to OSPHL for receipt within 4 days of specimen collection. If the specimen cannot be tested within 5 days, serum must be removed from the clot within 5 days of collection.
- Result Report: Currently, the FTA test provides gradations (e.g., 1+, 2+). With this change, gradations will not be reported as the TP-PA test is qualitative. Results for TP-PA will be reported stating reactive, non-reactive, or indeterminate.

What is not changing?

All other steps of the OSPHL syphilis testing algorithm will remain the same. A revised testing algorithm is attached for your information and planning.

The fee for TP-PA is the same as for FTA. There will be no change to fees assessed for this test.

Why this change?

Transitioning to the TP-PA assay test will better align OSPHL's testing with CDC syphilis testing recommendations and provide higher sensitivity and specificity. In addition, the test is easier and faster to perform in the laboratory.

The OSPHL Test Menu (www.healthoregon.org/labtests) will be updated closer to the implementation date. Please contact Shane Sevey, Virology/Immunology Section Manager, with questions at 503-693-4154 or shane.a.sevey@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

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