



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH


Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary


Laboratories Administration

Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director
1770 Ashland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Date: April 15, 2024

To: Submitters requesting *Francisella tularensis* antibody testing and Local Health Departments

Through: Robert A. Myers, PhD 
Director, Laboratories Administration

Heather Goux, PhD 
Chief of Virology and Immunology

From: Nazia Qureshi, PhD
Supervisor, Serology Program
Virology & Immunology

Re: Discontinuation of *Francisella tularensis* antibody testing

Due to reagents unavailability, effective April 15, 2024, the Maryland Department of Health, Laboratories Administration will discontinue *Francisella tularensis* antibody testing which was part of our Tickborne Panel. Although the assay will be discontinued, we will continue to ship *Francisella tularensis* serology requests to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for analysis.

For additional information regarding *Francisella tularensis* serology, please refer to the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/detail.html?CDCTestCode=CDC-10314>.

According to current CDC specimen submission requirements, the specimen must be stored at 2-8 °C for up to 14 days post-collection, stored at -20 °C or lower for up to 60 days, or held at -70 °C or lower for up to 9 months prior to shipment.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 443-681-3930 or X3931.

Thank you.

CC: Dr. David Blythe
Dr. David Crum