



Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory

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Ebola Real-Time RT-PCR

Description	Ebola Real-Time RT-PCR method developed by the Department of Defense and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under emergency use authorization.
Pre-Approval Required	<p>For Los Angeles County, prior approval is required from the Los Angeles County Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) medical epidemiologist in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ACDC can be contacted by calling 213-240-7941 during business hours. After hours, weekends, or holidays contact the County Operator and ask for the administrator on duty (AOD) at 213-974-1234.</p> <p>For outside jurisdictions, approval is required from the local health department in consultation with CDPH and CDC.</p>
Supplemental Information and Required Form(s)	<p>Los Angeles County PHL Test Request Form http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lab/labforms.htm</p> <p>CDC Infectious Disease (CDC Form 50.34) http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html</p> <p>CDC Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) Diagnostic Specimen Submission Form http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/pdf/specimen-submission.pdf</p>
Required Specimen Type(s)	Two (2) lavender top EDTA blood specimens in plastic vacutainer tubes
Minimum Volume Required	4 mL each
Storage/Transport Conditions	Store samples at 4-8°C using double biohazard specimen bags in a secondary container. Specimen should be sent on cold packs using a Category A shipper.
Specimen Labeling	Patient full name, DOB, MRN, date collected
Shipping Instructions and Specimen Handling Requirements	<p>Do not send specimens using regular courier or without prior consultation, approval, and notification to the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory. One sample is sent to Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory and the other sample is sent to CDC.</p> <p>In Los Angeles County, contact the Bioterrorism Response Unit at (562) 658-1360 during business hours for specimen notification, sample pick up, and assistance with packing specimens. After hours, weekends, or holidays contact the County Operator and ask for the public health laboratory director at 213-974-1234.</p> <p>For outside jurisdictions, work with your local public health department to arrange for transport to the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory and CDC using World Courier.</p> <p>Provide package tracking number and notification of sample shipment to your local public health laboratory director and to Dr. Nicole Green, Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory Director, at nicgreen@ph.lacounty.gov</p>
Test Methodology	Real-Time RT-PCR
Turnaround Time	24 hrs
Interferences & Limitations	This test is specific for Ebola Zaire virus and does not detect other Ebola species or hemorrhagic fever viruses. Specimens from patients who have received therapeutics or vaccines based on nucleic acid sequences derived from Ebola Zaire virus may exhibit false positive or other confounding test results. If fever or symptoms have been present for less than 72 hours, a repeat test may be required to rule out Ebola virus infection.
Reference Range	Not Detected