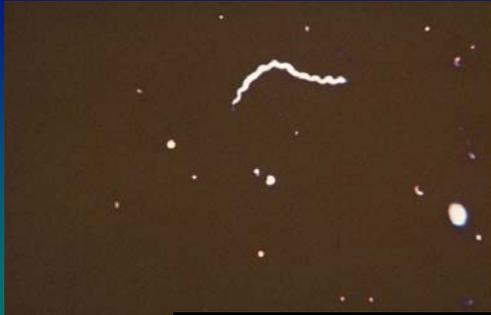


Contact Information

To obtain a Syphilis Specimen Packaging and Shipping Kit

contact:
WAPHL Mailroom
206-418-5579

Treponema pallidum: dark field microscopy

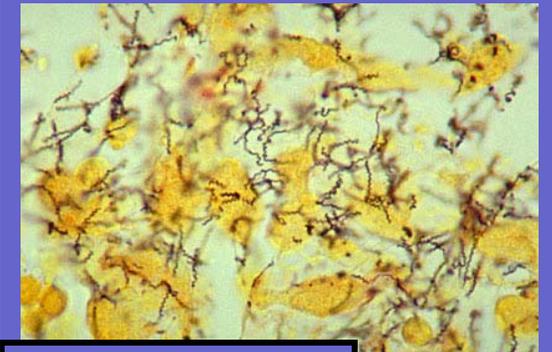


Treponema pallidum

Department of Health
Public Health Laboratories
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155



Syphilis Testing at the Public Health Laboratories



Treponema pallidum

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Treponema pallidum Testing at the Public Health Laboratories

The WAPHL Syphilis Serology Unit tests all serum and spinal fluids using the Venereal Disease Research Laboratory test (VDRL).

Weakly reactive tests are confirmed using specific *T. pallidum* antibodies.

A reactive spinal fluid usually indicates the tertiary stage of syphilis.

Syphilis remains an important global health problem. *Treponema pallidum* is the causative agent that enters through mucous membranes or breaks in the epithelium. A chancre is seen at the site of entry. The primary lesion or chancre lasts for 3 to 8 weeks and is followed by a secondary stage which includes a skin rash where active bacteria are present. Other symptoms may include headache, fever, fatigue, sore throat, patchy hair loss, and enlarged lymph nodes.

The latent or hidden stage of syphilis begins when the secondary symptoms disappear. Without treatment, an infected person will continue to have syphilis even though there are no signs or symptoms. This is when the internal organs are damaged, including the brain, nerves, eyes, heart, blood vessels, liver, bones, and joints. This internal damage may show up many years later.

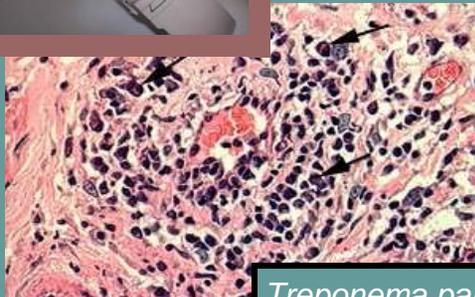
Signs and symptoms of the late stage of syphilis include difficulty coordinating muscle movements, paralysis, numbness, gradual blindness, and dementia. This damage may be serious enough to cause death.

Diagnostic Specimen and Collection and Shipping Kit

The kit will include FA slides, slide holder, envelope, pointed stick, a lab form, and an instruction sheet.

Washington Public Health Laboratories

Syphilis Serology Unit
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155



Treponema pallidum



Public Health Laboratories
Phone: 206-418-5400
Fax: 206-418-5445