Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

HCV antibody

Nonreactive

No HCV antibody detected

STOP*

Reactive

HCV RNA

Not Detected

No current HCV infection

Additional testing as appropriate†

Detected

Current HCV infection

Link to care

* For persons who might have been exposed to HCV within the past 6 months, testing for HCV RNA or follow-up testing for HCV antibody is recommended. For persons who are immunocompromised, testing for HCV RNA can be considered.

† To differentiate past, resolved HCV infection from biologic false positivity for HCV antibody, testing with another HCV antibody assay can be considered. Repeat HCV RNA testing if the person tested is suspected to have had HCV exposure within the past 6 months or has clinical evidence of HCV disease, or if there is concern regarding the handling or storage of the test specimen.