

Submission and Testing of Vectors

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Tick Testing

- DSHS Zoonosis Control Branch (ZCB) partners with the Tick-borne Disease Research Laboratory at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) to test ticks for disease agents
- Ticks must first be submitted to the ZCB office:
 - free service to Texas residents
 - only ticks attached to a human host are accepted
 - ZCB identifies tick species, stage of development, and state of engorgement
 - ZCB forwards ticks to UNTHSC where they are tested for *Borrelia*, *Ehrlichia*, and *Rickettsia* genera using DNA methodologies
- Tick Submission and Testing:
 - instructions and PDF form located at www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/
 - turnaround time is approximately 2 weeks after receipt at DSHS
 - UNTHSC sends results to appropriate regional offices and ZC staff notifies submitters



Triatomine Testing

- DSHS ZCB partners with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide testing of Triatomines (aka kissing bugs) for *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the causative agent of Chagas disease
- Triatomines must first be *submitted to the ZCB office:
 - free service to Texas residents
 - only bugs directly implicated in a human exposure are accepted
 - ZCB verifies that bug is a triatomine
 - ZCB forwards triatomine to CDC
 - CDC identifies triatomine species and tests for *T. cruzi* (Polymerase Chain Reaction)
 - CDC runs a “Triatominae Bloodmeal Analysis” on all *T. cruzi* positives to test for the presence of human blood
- Triatomine Submission and Testing:
 - instructions and PDF form located at www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/chagas/
 - turnaround time is approximately 1 month after receipt at DSHS
 - results are sent to ZCB and distributed to regional ZC offices so they can contact submitters



**Submitters are encouraged to send a picture first via email – many of the bugs that people want to submit are NOT triatomines but are closely related species*