1. **Person exposed or potentially exposed to a triatomine bug and the bug or photo of the bug is available for identification**

- Email the digital photo(s) to DSHS at bonny.mayes@dshs.texas.gov, whitney.qualls@dshs.texas.gov and the.vet@dshs.state.tx.us

- If the bug appears to be a triatomine or no photo is available, consult with Regional DSHS Zoonosis Control staff to determine if PCR testing is warranted

- If CDC agrees to test by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS Lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G-2A submission form)

- If CDC recommends serologic testing instead of PCR testing, the sample should be sent to a commercial lab (follow process 2)

- Perform serology at a commercial lab

  - **Negative** serology – person does NOT have Chagas disease

  - **Positive** serology – request that any remaining sample be forwarded to the DSHS lab or collect a new sample and send to DSHS lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G2A submission form)

  - Prior to sample submission, consult with Regional DSHS Zoonosis Control staff to determine if PCR testing is warranted

  - If CDC agrees to test by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS Lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G-2A submission form)

  - If CDC recommends serologic testing instead of PCR testing, the sample should be sent to a commercial lab (follow process 2)

2. **Person tests positive at a blood bank**

   - **OR**

   - Person exposed or potentially exposed to a triatomine bug >8 weeks prior

   - **OR**

   - Person with onset of cardiac disease compatible with chronic Chagas disease

   - **OR**

   - Person with Chagas-positive mother or sibling

   - **OR**

   - Person potentially exposed to blood or tissue from an infected person or animal >8 weeks prior (e.g. needlestick injury, tissue transplant)

   - Prior to sample submission, consult with Regional DSHS Zoonosis Control staff to determine if PCR testing is warranted

   - If CDC agrees to test by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS Lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G-2A submission form)

   - If CDC recommends serologic testing instead of PCR testing, the sample should be sent to a commercial lab (follow process 2)

3. **Person exposed or potentially exposed to a T. cruzi positive triatomine bug ≤8 weeks prior**

   - **OR**

   - Person traveled to a Chagas-endemic area and has acute symptoms

   - **OR**

   - Person potentially exposed to blood or tissue from an infected person or animal ≤8 weeks prior (e.g. needlestick injury, tissue transplant)

   - If the bug appears to be a triatomine or no photo is available, send the bug to DSHS for identification and testing (instructions and submission form are available at www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/chagas/)

   - If the bug tests **positive** for T. cruzi, go to process 2 or 3, depending on timeframe

   - If the bug tests **negative** for T. cruzi, the person is NOT at risk for Chagas disease

   - If the bug is not a triatomine, the person is NOT at risk for Chagas disease

   - If the bug appears to be a triatomine, but is not available for testing and you wish to pursue clinical testing, go to process 2

   - Perform serology at a commercial lab

     - **Negative** serology – person does NOT have Chagas disease

     - **Positive** serology – request that any remaining sample be forwarded to the DSHS lab or collect a new sample and send to DSHS lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G2A submission form)

     - If CDC agrees to test by PCR, submit the appropriate sample to the DSHS Lab for routing to CDC (select “Chagas disease” in Section 10: CDC Reference Tests on the G-2A submission form)

     - If CDC recommends serologic testing instead of PCR testing, the sample should be sent to a commercial lab (follow process 2)

   - Benznidazole approved by FDA for use in children 2-12 years of age; Nifurtimox is available as an investigational drug through CDC

*DSHS Chagas Disease (Trypanosoma cruzi) Exposure Assessment and Testing Guidance Rev. 9-18*
Major Commercial Labs that Currently Perform Chagas Ab Testing

- **Mayo Medical Lab**

- **ARUP**

- **Quest Diagnostics**

Disclaimer of Endorsement: Reference herein to any specific commercial laboratory or test does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Texas Department of State Health Services.