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### Ebola Real-Time RT-PCR Assay

Description	Ebola real-time RT-PCR assay was developed by the Department of Defense and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under emergency use authorization.
Prior Approval Required	No sample may be submitted for testing unless prior approval has been obtained. Health Care Providers must contact their local public health department. The local public health department will assist in assessing the patient along with the California Department of Public Health Ebola virus clinical consultant (916-328-3605) and consultants from CDC.
Laboratory Submittal Forms (State and CDC forms required)	VRDL General Purpose Specimen Submittal Form <a href="http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Pages/default.aspx</a> CDC Infectious Disease (CDC Form 50-34) provided by the local health department. CDC Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) Diagnostic Specimen Submission Form <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/pdf/specimen-submission.pdf">http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/pdf/specimen-submission.pdf</a>
Specimen types and minimum volume	Two (2) tubes whole blood, each containing a minimum of 4 mL preserved with EDTA, clot activator, sodium polyanethol sulfonate (SPS) or citrate in plastic collection tubes. DO NOT SUBMIT SPECIMENS IN GLASS CONTAINERS. Purple, yellow or blue top tubes are preferred. DO NOT SUBMIT SPECIMENS PRESERVED IN HEPARIN (GREEN TOP) TUBES.
Specimen Labeling	Minimum information is patient name, date collected and DOB
Storage and Shipment Conditions	Specimens should be stored and shipped refrigerated.
Shipping Instructions	PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED TO SHIP THESE SAMPLES FOR TESTING. Work with your local public health department to ensure the samples are packaged according to instructions for Category A shipment. Note: World Courier 1-800-223-4461 is the only commercial courier service that accepts Risk Group IV agents for transport. Please provide the tracking number and estimated time of delivery (ETA) to the VRDL so staff can be available to receive the sample.
Test Method and TAT	Real-time RT-PCR with a TAT of 24 hours
Test Interpretation and limitation	This assay is specific for Ebola Zaire virus and does not detect other Ebola species or other 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.
Normal Reference Range	Not Detected