# Lab Dept: Serology

## Test Name: TULAREMIA ANTIBODY

### General Information

**Lab Order Codes:** TUL  
**Synonyms:** Francisella Antibody, Serum; F. tularensis antibody  
**CPT Codes:** 86000 – Agglutinins, febrile, each antigen  
**Test Includes:** Francisella tularensis antibody titer including IgG, IgM and interpretation

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Detection of agglutinating antibodies in patients having tularemia  

Francisella tularensis, a small gram-negative coccobacillus, is the causative agent of tularemia. Man is unusually susceptible to infection, but many wild animals are also hosts.  

Human infection is usually through the skin by contact with infected animal tissues or pelts. The organism may also be inhaled or ingested improperly cooked meat or may be transmitted by bloodfeeding arthropods or flies.  

Onset of the disease is with high fever followed by enlargement of the liver and spleen. Headache suggesting meningitis often occurs. Most cases are associated with a skin ulcer and nearby lymphadenitis.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Serology - Sendouts  
**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: TULAB)  
**Phone Numbers:**  
MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
STP Lab: 651-220-6550  
**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours  
**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 6 days, test is set up Tuesday and Thursday  
**Special Instructions:** N/A

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Blood  
**Container:** SST (Gold, marble or red) tube
**Draw Volume:** 1.8 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 0.6 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) serum

**Collection:** Routine blood collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimens other than serum, mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### Interpretive

**Reference Range:** Negative

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Cross-reacting antibody to brucella, yersinia, or proteus OX19 may occur (false positive)

**Methodology:** Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

**References:** [Mayo Clinical Laboratories Web Page](#) November 2019

**Updates:**

- 7/8/2010: Specimen storage changed from refrigerated to room temperature.
- 2/2/2018: Collection container update.