

Core Testing Algorithm

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California Encephalitis Project
Enhanced Diagnostic Testing & Epidemiology

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- A. CSF (need 2-3 ml)- *If lumbar puncture is not performed, CSF is not needed*
 - 1. PCR for HSV 1 & 2; VZV; HHV6, Enterovirus
 - 2. Freeze aliquot for further testing
 - 3. Further testing as patient history indicates
- B. Serum (1 red top tube or 2-3 ml) -
 - 1. Mycoplasma IgM; Parvovirus B19 IgM; EBV IgM, IgG, EBNA
- C. NP/Throat swab (in viral transport media) –
 - 1. PCR for Enterovirus
 - 2. PCR for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
 - 3. Routine viral culture
 - 4. Respiratory PCR panel if patient has URI symptoms
- D. Convalescent serum (10-14 days after onset or date of acute serum) -
 - 1. Mycoplasma IgM, Mycoplasma IgG
 - 2. Further testing as patient history indicates
 - 3. Additional testing per results of acute specimens
- E. If PCR is positive, follow-up serology for particular agent
- F. Consider rabies if severe illness, travel history outside of US, or rapid progression of illness.