



Contact Info:

Client Services:
912.819.8440

- Options:
1. Specimen Pickup
 2. Billing Questions
 3. Client Services
 4. Pathology

Patient Orders: Fax to
912.819.7265

Supply request: Fax to
912.819.6906

Outpatient Draw Stations Holiday Schedule:

Thanksgiving: Closed
Friday 11/25/23: All draw stations will be closed EXCEPT Candler Hospital POB which will be opened from 6:30am-noon. Also, STAT pickups will be available by calling 912-819-8440, opt 1
Christmas Day: Closed
New Year's Day: Closed

Looking for the SJC/C test menu?

Go to testmenu.com/sjchs or look for the below icon on all SJC/C computers.



Have a Lab Question/Concern?

Email us
labcustomerservice@sjchs.org

SJC Laboratory
11702 Mercy Blvd, Suite 1
Savannah, GA 31419
912.819.8440 ph
912.819.6906 fax
www.sjchs.org

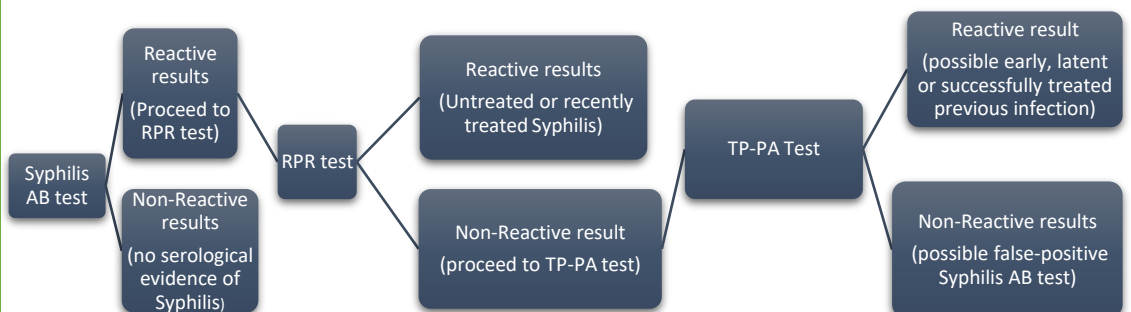


Message from Olin Thomas, Director of Laboratory Services

The United States is currently experiencing a syphilis epidemic, with sustained increases in primary and secondary syphilis (P&S). From **2017 to 2021**, P&S rates rose **72%** in the US and rose **22%** in Georgia (CDC, 2017, 2021). Congenital syphilis rates rose **219%** in the US and rose **321%** in Georgia.

Treponema pallidum is the causative agent of the disease. The epidemic is characterized by health disparities, particularly among sexual and gender minority populations, intersections with the HIV and substance use epidemics, and increased morbidity and mortality attributable to congenital syphilis infections (CDC, 2020). Laboratories play a critical role in the public health response to the syphilis epidemic. The responsibility of the laboratory is to test specimens and report results in a timely manner, allowing clinicians to efficiently make diagnoses and institute patient management protocols. St. Joseph's/Candler Laboratories are committed to providing this vital Syphilis Screening, using the following Algorithm:

- Syphilis Antibodies (AB) is our **Primary Screening Test**. This test will detect antibodies against *Treponema pallidum* and is performed **DAILY** in our Chemistry department.
- All samples reactive for syphilis AB will automatically reflex to the Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) test for confirmation.
- Specimens with discordant antibody and RPR results will automatically be sent to our partner reference lab (ARUP) for *Treponema pallidum* Particle Agglutination (TP-PA) test.
- RPR is available for monitoring treatment response to an established infection. Reflex confirmation testing will not be performed for a reactive RPR result as it is no longer offered as the primary screening test.



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Quality Corner: Reducing Delays

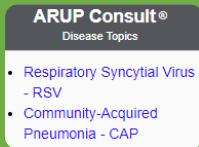
With Flu here, it is important that each viral sample arrive in the appropriate transport media. BD Universal Viral Transport is used for Molecular viral testing such as Flu, RSV, Covid-19 and HSV.



Not sure how to collect, prepare, transport or store samples? Simply visit our website (testmenu.com/sjchs), search the test catalog, then click on the “Collection” for the most updated info.

Ordering **Collection** Result Interpretation Administrative

Also check out ARUP Consult Disease Topics, if available



Outpatient Draw Stations Locations

In Bluffton:

At Bluffton Imaging
10 Oak Forest Rd, Ste C
P: 848.815.3006
F: 843.815.3737
M-F 9am-12pm

In Savannah:

Inside Candler Hospital POB
5354 Reynolds St
P: 912.819.8255
F: 912.819.7265
M-F 6:30am-3pm
Sat-Sun 6:30am-1pm

Medical Arts Outpatient Lab
836 E. 65th St, Bldg 1
P: 912.819.7622
F: 912.819.8695
M-F 6:30am-5:30pm

St. Joseph's Outpatient Lab
11706 Mercy Blvd, Plz A, Bldg 3
P: 912.819.4212
F: 912.819.3363
M-F 6:30-4pm

In Pooler:

On SJ/Pooler Campus
101 St. Joseph's/Candler Dr
P: 912.737.2265
F: 912.737.2268
M-F 7am-5pm

Georgia's Syphilis Priority Population & Call to Action

Untreated maternal syphilis infections can lead to adverse pregnancy outcomes including fetal and infant death, premature birth, and congenital syphilis infection. Congenital syphilis can be prevented if pregnant women are screened and treated early in the pregnancy. Congenital syphilis cases occur when prevention opportunities are missed. The risk of congenital syphilis can be minimized by providing appropriate medical treatment for pregnant women with syphilis. A total of 54 missed cases of syphilis were identified in Georgia in 2019. Health care providers can help prevent congenital syphilis cases in Georgia by adhering to the following guidelines and Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. § 31-17-4.2):

- Test every pregnant person at the first prenatal visit;
- Again at 28-23 weeks gestation; and
- At delivery

St. Joseph's/Candler Laboratories are committed to screen for illness and promote wellness including the health and well-being of every woman and infant in Georgia. As part of this commitment, we have ensured that syphilis AB test is offered **in-house** in our laboratory. We are able to offer a quick turn-around-time of 1 day by eliminating the need to send samples to an out-of-town reference laboratory.

Testing Update: HIV-1 & HIV-2 Qualitative PCR & HIV-1 Quantitative

To better serve our patients, providers and communities, SJ/C now performs HIV-1 & HIV-2 Qualitative PCR and HIV-1 Quantitative testing **in-house** at our CORE Laboratory located next to St. Joseph's Hospital. This change eliminates samples being sent to our reference lab (ARUP) which shortens the turn-around-time. HIV-1 & HIV-2 Qualitative PCR is used to confirm “reactive” results from our HIV 1 & 2 Screen while HIV-1 Quantitative is used to monitor HIV treatment.

SJ/C Laboratories Partnership with ARUP Laboratories

While expanding our in-house test menu is a priority, it is equally important as to **where** we send our samples for specialized testing. In 2018, we partnered with ARUP Laboratories as our **primary** reference laboratory. ARUP is a national nonprofit and academic reference laboratory who is at the forefront of diagnostic medicine. We take stock in ARUP's unique laboratory model which is managed by more than 100 on-site Medical Directors, who also teach and publish as faculty members at the University of Utah School of Medicine. As partners with ARUP, our clients/clinicians can receive **results interpretation consultation** with nationally and internationally recognized ARUP clinicians.