



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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Test Order

Malaria / Bloodborne Parasite Identification

Synonym(s)	<i>Plasmodium</i> for Identification, <i>Babesia</i> for Identification, other Bloodborne Parasite for Identification
Methodology	Real-time PCR (for <i>Plasmodium</i> /malaria identification) and Microscopy
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	For Malaria PCR: whole blood with EDTA (lavender top). Also include thick and thin blood smears (stained or unstained with Giemsa stain) on glass microscopy slides.
Transport / Collection Medium	Collect a 1-5 ml blood sample in Vacutainer® EDTA tubes prior to anti-parasitic therapy, shipped on cold packs (not frozen); smears in slide transport container.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Store whole blood refrigerated (2-8°C) until transport; smears can be refrigerated (2-8°C) or stored at ambient temperature.
Minimum Volume Required	200 µl whole blood for malaria PCR
Additional Collection Instructions	N/A
Additional Required Information	Patient travel history, patient clinical history, physician's full name and contact number, onset of symptoms, county of residence.
Send Out?	Yes
Turnaround Time	10 business days
Testing Restrictions	
Requisition Form(s)	http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	

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