

Malaria – Testing Updates

Memo From the Laboratory

8/20/2026

This communication is from:

Dr. Scott Wendroth – BVH Laboratory Medical Director

Effective Date: September 1, 2026

BinaxNOW Malaria Test

BVH laboratory will no longer be performing peripheral blood smears for Malaria and instead will utilize the BinaxNOW Malaria Test. This is an in vitro immunochromatographic assay used for the qualitative detection of *Plasmodium* antigens in venous blood from patients with signs and symptoms consistent with malaria infection.

The assay detects:

- Histidine-rich protein II (HRP-II), which is specific to *Plasmodium falciparum*
- A pan-malarial antigen common to the four human malaria species:
 - *P. falciparum*
 - *P. vivax*
 - *P. ovale*
 - *P. malariae*

Reporting

The BinaxNOW Malaria Test is a screening assay only. All specimens, regardless of screening result, will be forwarded to Mayo Clinic Laboratories for confirmatory Malaria/Babesia smear testing.

Results will be reported as:

- **Presumptive Positive** – Malaria antigen detected. Confirmatory testing has been initiated.
- **Presumptive Negative** – Malaria antigen not detected. Confirmatory testing has been initiated.

Important Note:

Results from the BinaxNOW® Malaria Test are preliminary and should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical findings, travel history, and confirmatory microscopic testing. Final diagnosis will be based on confirmatory testing performed by Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

For questions, please contact Sarah Simons, Hematology Section Supervisor at (419) 429-6433.