

# Marek's Disease Virus (MDV)

**ABOUT:** Marek's Disease is a highly contagious viral disease of chickens caused by a herpesvirus. It primarily affects nerves and can also cause tumors in multiple organs. MDV is a major economic concern in poultry production worldwide.

**SYMPTOMS:** Symptoms include paralysis of wings and legs, weight loss, vision impairment (gray eye), and tumor development in organs such as the liver, spleen, and skin. Mortality and production losses can be significant.

**PREVENTION:** Prevention is achieved through widespread vaccination of chicks at hatch, combined with strong biosecurity measures. Vaccination reduces disease severity but does not completely prevent infection or shedding.

**GETTING TESTED:** Blood samples from poultry can be tested for MDV antibodies. Collect at least 0.5 mL of blood in a red- or yellow-top tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and shipped with an ice pack.

Tests are processed on Monday, and results are reported the same day.

