

Reticuloendotheliosis Virus (REV)

ABOUT: Reticuloendotheliosis Virus (REV) is a retrovirus that affects chickens, turkeys, and other birds. It can cause immunosuppression, tumors, and runting disease in young birds, often complicating other infections and vaccinations.

SYMPTOMS: Symptoms include poor growth, feather abnormalities, enlarged spleens, and increased susceptibility to secondary infections. Tumors may develop in some birds, resembling those caused by Marek's disease or avian leukosis.

PREVENTION: Prevention focuses on biosecurity, preventing contamination of vaccines with REV, and monitoring breeding stock. Once established, REV can persist in flocks and is difficult to eradicate.

GETTING TESTED: Blood samples from poultry can be tested for REV 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.

