

## INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR) ANTIBODY ELISA

### Outline

Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) is a contagious disease caused by a type 1 Herpes virus. In New Zealand, strains of this virus are associated with respiratory disease (IBR) and infectious pustular vulvo-vaginitis. Strains of IBR virus causing abortion are exotic to New Zealand. If abortion due to IBR virus infection is suspected, MPI must be informed via 0800 809 966.

As with all Herpesviridae, IBR remains latent after primary infection and may recur during periods of stress causing the animal to shed the virus. This type of stress is often seen when infected animals are sold and transported to new herds and is the most common source of infection for a previously “clean” herd.

### TEST: IBR Antibody ELISA

This is a serology test to determine if the animal has antibodies to IBR. This test will not determine if the animal is currently shedding the virus.

**Sample Type:** Serum (red top tube), EDTA, plasma, minimum volume 1 ml. **This test can only be performed on individual samples.** It cannot be pooled.

**Turnaround Time:** 2-3 days after the sample is received.

**Results:** The results for an IBR test are reported as positive, negative and equivocal. The interpretations are as follows:

#### IBR ELISA INTERPRETATION: POSITIVE RESULT

Seropositivity is indicative of previous infection with bovine herpesvirus 1 (BHV1). Amongst dairy cattle the herd prevalence for antibodies to (BHV1) is >65%.

#### IBR ELISA INTERPRETATION: NEGATIVE RESULT

There is no indication of previous infection with bovine herpesvirus 1 (BHV1).

#### IBR ELISA ANTIBODY EQUIVOCAL RESULT

An equivocal result may be caused by a very low antibody response to bovine herpesvirus 1 (BHV1) infection or by a non-specific reaction. If there is no possibility of previous IBR vaccination, the IBR virus neutralisation test (VNJ) may provide further information.