

The Human Herpesvirus Family

HHV	COMMON NAME	MAIN DISEASES CAUSED	MAIN REASON FOR SEROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS
HHV-1	Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV-1)	Oral herpes, gingivostomatitis, keratitis, encephalitis	Determining past exposure or distinguishing primary from recurrent infection when PCR/culture is unavailable
HHV-2	Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 (HSV-2)	Genital herpes, neonatal herpes, aseptic meningitis	Confirmation of prior infection, epidemiologic screening, assessment in pregnancy or sexual health evaluation
HHV-3	Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV)	Chickenpox (varicella), shingles (herpes zoster)	Assessing immunity (especially before pregnancy, transplantation, or immunosuppression)
HHV-4	Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)	Infectious mononucleosis, Burkitt lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma	Staging acute vs past infection using heterophile antibodies and EBV-specific antibody profiles
HHV-5	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Congenital CMV infection, mononucleosis-like illness, retinitis in immunocompromised patients	Detecting primary infection/reactivation, especially in pregnancy and transplant recipients
HHV-6	Human Herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6)	Roseola infantum (exanthem subitum), febrile seizures, encephalitis in immunocompromised patients	Limited role; mainly evidence of prior exposure or investigation of reactivation in immunocompromised patients