**Indications for Testing**

- Persons with signs or symptoms of syphilis infection
- Asymptomatic persons at high risk for syphilis (or of transmitting the disease to others)

### Traditional Sequence Algorithm

**Perform nontreponemal testing**

**Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) with Reflex to Titer**

- **Nonreactive**
  - Consider retesting in 3-12 mos if patient remains in risk category
- **Reactive**
  - **Confirm with treponemal testing**
    - **Treponema pallidum Antibody by TP-PA**
      - **Nonreactive**
        - Syphilis unlikely
        - False-positive RPR may be caused by infectious process, pregnancy, drug use, etc.
      - **Reactive**
        - Syphilis likely
        - Treat according to CDC guidelines

### Reverse Sequence Screening Algorithm

**Perform treponemal testing**

**Treponema pallidum Antibody, IgG by ELISA**

- **Positive**
  - **Perform nontreponemal testing**
    - **Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) with Reflex to Titer**
      - **Nonreactive**
        - Syphilis unlikely
        - False-positive RPR may be caused by infectious process, pregnancy, drug use, etc.
      - **Reactive**
        - Syphilis likely
        - Treat according to CDC guidelines

### Abbreviations

- ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
- IgG: Immunoglobulin G
- TP-PA: *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination assay

*Unless patient has history of known, treated syphilis in the past*