

***Are ATCC human cell lines tested for viruses such as Epstein-Barr (EBV) virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV, AIDS virus), human T cell leukemia (HTLV), and hepatitis B virus? Are ATCC cell lines tested for bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV)?***

**Answer:** Some of our human cell lines are known to produce EBV, HTLV, or hepatitis virus, and this information is given in the catalog description and on product sheets. In addition, the human lung cell lines in our CCL collection have been screened and found negative for viruses by procedures that are detailed in our quality control manual (egg inoculation, hemadsorption, and co-cultivation with indicator cells). At this time, ATCC is distributing the HIV-positive line H9/HTLV-III B (ATCC CRL-8543). However, some of our other patent deposits have been derived from AIDS patients and may carry HIV.

Since it is not possible for us to test every cell line for every possible virus, we rely on the tests performed by the depositor. We recommend that all human cell lines be accorded the same level of biosafety consideration as a line known to carry HIV. With infectious virus assays or viral antigen assays, even a negative test result may leave open the possible existence of a latent viral genome. Thus, it is best to use caution when handling any human cell line. Concerning BVDV, the virus is present in most serum samples, often at very low levels. Hence, it is probably present in all cell lines in which it can replicate unless the cultures have been grown in rigidly tested sera or sera of non-bovine origins. A paper describing tests of some ATCC lines was published in 1994 [S.R. Bolin et al. (1994) Survey of cell lines in the American Type Culture Collection for bovine viral diarrhea virus. J. Virol. Methods 48:211]. Lines that are positive for BVDV are so described in the ATCC catalog descriptions.

<http://www.atcc.org/TechnicalInfo/faqCellBiology.cfm#Q53>