

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Mumps, RT-PCR (Version 3)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**	
Parotid Gland (Buccal) Swab*	At illness.  For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.</li> <li>Immediately after collection, place swab directly in 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 2 ml of VTM.</li> </ul>	VTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs to arrive at WAPHL during business hours <b>within</b> 72 hrs of collection. Otherwise or if previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72hrs of collection, or if testing will not be completed within 72hrs, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>	
CSF#			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect in sterile screw capped specimen container.</li> <li><b>CSF Minimum volume:</b> 1 ml of CSF</li> <li><b>Urine Minimum volume:</b> 20 ml of urine (50 ml of urine preferred).</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof, screw capped container.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Insufficient specimen volume.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs to arrive at WAPHL during business hours <b>within</b> 72 hrs of collection. Otherwise or if previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, or if testing will not be completed within 72hrs, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>	
Urine	Collect 4-10 days post symptom onset.					
Culture Isolate				Isolate from culture.	VTM	

# PHL has not validated these specimens; testing will be performed with approval from Virology Laboratory.

**General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Urine collected within 3 days from the day of onset.
- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain LHJ approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

**NOTE:**

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, second identifier, and date of onset.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

**Collection kit availability**

Not available.

**Comments**

- Ship all specimen types as Category B.
- Testing requires approval by your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) or state communicable disease epidemiologist.
- Buccal swab is the preferred specimen type for detecting mumps virus.