

## Suspect Mumps Case Specimen Submission Instructions

Suspect mumps cases must be reported immediately to the local health department. All suspect mumps cases and specimens submitted for testing must be coordinated with an Oregon State Acute and Communicable Disease Epidemiologist at 971-673-1111. Specimens for mumps testing should be sent directly to the **Washington State Public Health Laboratory (WSPHL)** for testing.

Persons suspected of having mumps should have serum drawn and specimens collected for viral isolation and PCR at the time of the first health care provider visit. Providers are encouraged to collect serum, buccal, and oropharyngeal specimens within 3 days of parotitis onset and send to WSPHL.

### SPECIMENS FOR SEROLOGY:

#### **Serum collection:**

A sample for both IgM and IgG can be collected at the first clinical encounter. Collect at least 4 ml blood in a red-gray top or red top tube and spin if possible and send at least 2 ml serum for each date of collection. *Among **unvaccinated** persons, if an acute IgM is collected less than 5 days after onset of parotitis and the IgM is negative, mumps cannot be ruled out and a second serum sample collected at least 5 days after onset is recommended.*

### SPECIMENS FOR VIRUS ISOLATION AND PCR:

*Failure to detect mumps virus RNA by RT-PCR or mumps virus in viral culture in samples from a person with clinically compatible mumps symptoms does not rule out mumps as a diagnosis.*

Swab specimens must be collected within 3 – 5 days of onset of parotitis. **DO NOT use calcium alginate, cotton or wooden shafted swabs as they inactivate viruses and inhibit PCR reactions and the specimen will be considered UNSATISFACTORY.**

**Buccal swab collection:** Massage the parotid gland for about 30 seconds prior to collecting specimen. Simultaneously place **two** Dacron® swabs between rear molars and cheek (both on the affected side if parotitis is unilateral) and leave in place 10–15 seconds. Remove the swabs, snap off the ends at the scored breakpoint and insert **both** swabs in a tube containing 2-3 ml of cold viral transport medium. Ensure that the cap is securely tight and will not leak.

#### **Oropharyngeal (throat) swab collection:**

Use a single Dacron® swab to collect secretions from the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas, avoiding the tongue and teeth.

Remove swab, snap off the end at the scored breakpoint and insert in a tube containing 2-3 ml of cold viral transport medium.

**Urine collection:** Collect at least 50cc of clean voided urine in a sterile container. Keep cold after collection.

### SPECIMEN SUBMISSION:

All clinical specimens must have two patient identifiers, a name **and** a second identifier (e.g., date of birth) both on the specimen label and on the completed **WSPHL virology test request form**. Along with the patient and submitter names, be sure to include the specimen source, date of collection, date of symptom onset, and immunization history (if known) on the form.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-017-SerVirHIV.pdf>

For more information on Mumps testing at Washington State Public Health Laboratories, refer to

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-065-Guideline-Mumps.pdf>

Before transport ensure that the caps on all tubes are tightly secured and do not leak. Store specimens at 4°C and arrange for same day/overnight transportation with cold packs. If specimens cannot be received at WSPHL within 48 hours of collection, freeze at -70°C and ship on dry ice.

Specimens must be shipped by Thursday or else special arrangements made with the labs for Saturday deliveries.

#### **Send Specimens to:**

**Washington State Department of Health,  
Public Health Laboratories  
1610 NE 150<sup>th</sup> St.; Shoreline, WA 98155-9701  
Phone (206) 418-5400**

### **Oregon Contacts:**

For collection supplies contact John Powell at 503-693-4114

For specimen shipping and transport information go to:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/SubmittingSamples/Pages/ShippingTransport.aspx>

For disease reporting and general information go to:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DISEASESAZ/Pages/disease.aspx?did=49>