

This guide walks providers through the process of collecting and transporting potential Mumps specimens to the Washington Public Health Lab.

Serologic Testing for Mumps

In most cases if serologic testing is desired, send serum commercially and request both IgM and IgG results.

Collection of Specimens for PCR Testing

- On days 0-3 after onset of parotitis, collect a buccal swab only.
- On days 4-10 after onset of parotitis, collect both a buccal swab and urine.
- Please consult with your Local Health Jurisdiction about what testing can be considered if more than 10 days has elapsed since onset of parotitis.

1. Collect the Mumps Specimen, following Mumps RT-PCR collection guidelines:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5240/SCSI-Mumps-RTPCR.pdf>

2. Complete the WAPHL Virology Specimen Submission form:

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

Make sure all of the following information is filled out:

- Patient name, second identifier (e.g. date of birth), and county of residence
- Specimen type, date of collection, onset date and test requested (Mumps RT-PCR)
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers

3. Once the Mumps specimen has been collected, prepare the specimen securely:

- Make sure the cap of the transport tube is securely closed.
- Make sure the patient's name and second identifier are listed on the specimen tube and match the specimen submission form.
- Prepare a Biohazard Ziploc (plastic) bag containing a piece of super absorbent paper.
- Place the taped or para-film tube in the bag prevent potential leaking.
- Place the WAPHL submission form in the outer pouch of the Biohazard bag. **DO NOT** place any paperwork inside the pouch with the specimen tube.

4. Prepare the Mumps specimen for shipment:

- Place the Mumps Specimen contained in the Biohazard bag into a Saf-T-Pak plastic bag. Place the Saf-T-Pak plastic bag into a white Tyvek bag.
- Place the white Tyvek bag into a large plastic bag with frozen ice packs or dry ice, and place everything into the Saf-T-Pak cardboard box.
- Add packing material as needed to prevent contents from shifting during shipment.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).

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- Place specimen into a special shipping container labeled as “Biological Substance, Category B.”

5. Ship the Mumps specimen:

- Choose a delivery service with package delivery within 24 hours.
- Lab receiving hours are 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 12pm on Saturday. Saturday delivery is discouraged.
- Reusable shippers should be covered in clear packing tape and indicate a ‘Please return to’ address on the outer box so WAPHL can ship it back.

Testing schedule at the WAPHL:

The turnaround time for mumps RT-PCR is 3 business days.

The cutoff for arrival on the current business day is 2pm. For turnaround time purposes, specimens that arrive after 2pm will be considered "arrived" on the next business day.