MUMPS LABORATORY TESTING GUIDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buccal or Oral Swab†</th>
<th>Serum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RT-PCR§¶</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>IgM or IgG Serology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
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* Only patients with symptoms consistent with mumps will be considered for RT-PCR or IgM testing.
† Buccal swab is the preferred sample for RT-PCR.
§ RT-PCR is the preferred method for confirming an acute case.
¶ Sequencing will be performed on PCR-positive specimens to determine viral genotype.

**Buccal or Throat (Oropharyngeal) Swab**
- Collect as soon as mumps is suspected.
- Massage the parotid gland (the space near the upper rear molars between the cheek and teeth) for 30 seconds prior to specimen collection.
- Vigorously swab the parotid area with a sterile synthetic swab (e.g., Dacron).
- Detailed buccal swabbing instructions are available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/lab/detection-mumps.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/lab/detection-mumps.html)
- Place swab into 2-3 ml of liquid viral or universal transport medium.
  - Acceptable liquid transport media include VTM, UTM, cell culture medium, or a sterile isotonic solution such as PBS with added protein.

**Specimen shipment**
- Complete the VRDL general specimen submittal form for each specimen ([http://tinyurl.com/VRDLLab300](http://tinyurl.com/VRDLLab300)).
  - Indicate if the specimen(s) is from a suspect case OR from a contact (for IgG testing only).
  - For a suspect case, include date of parotitis onset and whether person is linked to a confirmed case.
  - Include mumps vaccination dates, if known.
- Send submittal form by secure email to VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov and include hard copy with specimens.
- In outbreak settings, please email package tracking information to expedite processing.

**Ship specimens to:**
Specimen Receiving
CDPH VRDL
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804

**Notify CDPH that specimens are being submitted** by emailing VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov.
Please include patient name and date of birth, and name and phone number of investigator in your jurisdiction who can provide additional information, if needed.

**Other resources**
- CDC Mumps specimen collection guidance: [http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/lab/specimen-collect.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/lab/specimen-collect.html)

**Questions** about specimen collection, submittal, or shipping:
- Please contact the VRDL Medical and Epidemiology Liaison Section at (510) 307-8585 or email VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov.

**Report** suspected, probable, and confirmed cases via CalREDIE or the CDPH case report form: [https://www.cdcph.gov/pubsforms/forms/Ctrlf Forms/cdph8690.pdf](https://www.cdcph.gov/pubsforms/forms/Ctrlf Forms/cdph8690.pdf) or contact the CDPH Immunization Branch at (510) 620-3737 and ask to be referred to the epidemiologist on-call.