

FACT SHEET

Mumps virus PCR

Test 6170

Test Description:

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs a molecular amplification test for detection of Mumps virus by real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method. Mumps is an acute disease characterized by fever and swelling and tenderness of one or salivary glands, called parotitis.

Between 40-50% of mumps infections are marked by respiratory symptoms in children less than 5 years old. Orchitis can also occur. Symptomatic aseptic meningitis can occur in up to 10% of mumps cases although patients usually recover.

Individuals infected with mumps virus can transmit the virus 2 or more days before the onset of parotitis and up to a week after onset.

Sensitivity: 95-98%

Specificity: 98-100%

Specimens:

Obtain specimens as soon as mumps virus infection is suspected. Collect within 4 days of parotitis onset.

1. **Preferred: Buccal or Throat Swab (Dacron® tip swabs with an aluminum or plastic shaft) placed in Viral Transport Media (VTM).**
2. Acceptable:
 - a. Buccal or oropharyngeal (throat) swab in VTM
 - b. Urine
 - To collect a urine: Collect a first morning voided specimen during the first week after rash onset, although any urine specimen collected up to 10 days after rash onset will be accepted. Collect **50 -100 ml urine in a sterile container.**
 - Urine specimens need to be transported to the public health lab within **24 hours of collection.**
3. Blood—collect 7-10mL in a red top or serum separator tube.
4. Mumps virus is sensitive to heat and desiccation and viability decreases when samples are not kept cold. **Specimens must be refrigerated at 4°C** until they can be sent to the laboratory and must be kept cold during transit.
5. Specimens other than urines can be held at **4°C for 72 hours** before testing.
6. If specimens are held for **>72 hours**, they should be frozen, preferably at **-70°C**.
7. Avoid repeat freeze-thaw cycles.



County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory

2191 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023

www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

Laboratory Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm