

CONTAGIOUS COMMENTS

Department of Epidemiology

REVISED Mumps (Infectious Parotitis) Laboratory Testing Recommendations Effective May 10, 2006

As of May 5th, the Colorado Department of Health is reporting that Colorado is **NOT** currently experiencing a mumps outbreak. There have been 4 confirmed cases to date.

Specimen Collection to Confirm Mumps Infection:

1. **Blood specimen** (3ml of whole blood in a red top or serum separator tube) for Mumps IgM/IgG Profile. Turn around time is approximately 2 days.
2. **Buccal swab specimen** for PCR and viral culture. Collect using Dacron swab in 2-3ml of viral transport medium from collection kit. Obtain kit from TCH Microbiology Laboratory (303-861-6703) or use any liquid viral transport kit. Keep cold/transport cold. To collect specimen, massage the parotid gland area (space between the cheek and teeth just below the ear) for about 30 seconds prior to collection of buccal secretions. The parotid duct drains in this space near the upper rear molar. Place swab in viral transport medium. Turn around time is 1-3 days for the PCR and 2 weeks for the culture results.
3. Send specimens to the “*Attention of TCH Microbiology Supervisor. Note to the TCH Specimen Processing: Do not log in. Forward specimens to Microbiology Supervisor*”.

Why the changes?

- The Mumps IgM/IgG Profile is less costly than individual testing and provides additional information (a positive IgM suggests the patient has mumps; a negative IgM and positive IgG suggests that the disease is unlikely to be mumps).
- Urine culture is slow (2 weeks to final result).
- The serology panel and buccal swab PCR provide more timely results and in most cases will yield sufficient information to make clinical and infection control decisions at a time when mumps circulation in Colorado is only sporadic.

Note: These recommendations may change if mumps circulation in Colorado increases.

Contact information:

- Colorado Dept of Public Health – Communicable Diseases
(303) 692-2700 or after hours at (303) 370-9395
- TCH Microbiology Laboratory
(303) 861-6703
- TCH Epidemiology
(303) 861-8888 (ask for Epi person “on-call”)
- TCH Infectious Diseases
(303) 861-6981





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