



DATE: 4/17/19, Update 7/18/19 jp
TO: Health Care Providers in Alaska
FROM: Bernd Jilly, Ph.D., Chief of Public Health Laboratories
THRU: Jayme Parker, Public Health Microbiologist III, Laboratory Manager
SUBJECT: Measles and mumps PCR testing now available at the Alaska State Virology Laboratory (ASVL) – Notification to Health Care Providers

Due to the rising occurrence of measles and mumps suspect cases, ASVL has successfully validated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays to target each virus and is now offering this testing to all health care providers in Alaska. To sustain this effort, we are required to charge a fee for testing. ASVL must have a signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) from your health care facility on file prior to releasing test results. ASVL recommends that all providers complete the MOA for measles and mumps testing as soon as possible so that paperwork issues do not hold up testing when it is needed. This agreement will allow anyone from your facility to submit a measles and/or mumps specimen to ASVL for testing.

Test	CPT	Fee per specimen
Measles (rubeola) PCR	87798	\$38.99
Mumps PCR	87798	\$38.99

Test	Acceptable specimens	Storage and Transport	Turnaround time
Measles (rubeola) PCR	Specimens should be collected within 2 weeks of rash onset. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throat swab* – preferred, (TS), in Universal Transport Media (UTM) • Nasopharyngeal swab* in UTM • Urine: 50-100mL in clean/sterile leak-proof container, not in UTM. Collect from the first part of the urine stream. The first morning void is ideal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store all specimens at 4°C. • Ship inoculated UTM and/or urine to ASVL on cool packs (4°C). 	1-3 days after receipt at ASVL
Mumps PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buccal swab* - preferred, in UTM • Throat swab* in UTM • Urine: 50 – 100mL in clean/sterile leak-proof container, not in UTM. Buccal or throat swab must also be collected. 		

*Swabs: use synthetic material swabs only (i.e. Dacron). Cotton or calcium-alginate tips and wooden or metal shafts are not acceptable.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jayme Parker