



Mumps Testing through Public Health: Status Update

The Alaska mumps outbreak is continuing to spread and is straining public health laboratory capacity and resources. A summary of testing resources is provided in the table below. We are asking clinics and clinicians in Alaska to consider these factors when deciding how best to route mumps clinical specimens to the appropriate diagnostic laboratory.

Currently, mumps samples submitted to the Alaska Division of Public Health are routed to CDC’s surveillance laboratory in Atlanta for molecular testing (PCR). While the CDC laboratory does not charge the patient for mumps testing, the current turn-around time is almost 3 weeks from date of specimen collection to receipt of final results. Commercial laboratories perform PCR testing for mumps at a cost (typically >\$300), but have a turn-around time of a few days. The Alaska State Virology Laboratory (ASVL) is currently working to gain mumps testing capacity, which could be available this spring. The price of testing will be considerably lower at ASVL than at clinical labs and the turn-around time will likely be on the order of days rather than weeks. More information on mumps testing at ASVL will be forthcoming.

	Public Health	Commercial Laboratories
Locations	Samples routed to CDC’s lab (Atlanta)	Quest* Lab Corp
Test Type	Molecular (PCR)*	PCR* (preferred method) Viral Culture
Turn-around Time (TAT)	~3 weeks	~3 days
Patient Testing Criteria**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic patients with parotitis lasting ≤7 days, acute salivary gland swelling, orchitis or oophoritis unexplained by another more likely diagnosis. • Testing is not necessary for symptomatic patients who report exposure to a confirmed or probable mumps case (e.g., household or family member) in the 12–25 days prior to their symptom onset. • In some cases, testing can be performed to rule out mumps when there are uncertain signs and symptoms, uncertain exposures, or possible mumps-related complications (e.g., encephalitis, oophoritis). • Do not test asymptomatic patients. 	In addition to the criteria listed for Public Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those patients for whom a faster TAT is desired. • Those patients who do not meet criteria but for whom testing may be desired.

*Recommended for both diagnostic and surveillance purposes.

**Guidance for testing through Public Health is available here:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/Mumps/MumpsforHCP020918.pdf>.