



Date: April 4, 2019

BCD-2019-06

To: Wisconsin Health Care Providers, Local Health Departments, Tribal Clinics, Clinical Laboratories

From: Jim Vergeront, M.D.
Acting Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases

Testing Recommendations for Individuals with Parotitis

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY

Since 2015, it has been noted that some individuals with signs and symptoms of parotitis in Wisconsin and neighboring states have negative diagnostic tests for mumps, but positive tests for influenza or parainfluenza viruses. Because of the serious nature of influenza and this unusual manifestation, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) are requesting that an additional specimen be submitted for influenza and other respiratory pathogen testing from individuals with parotitis. This will help us to better understand this manifestation of influenza and determine its prevalence.

Therefore, for patients with parotitis without a known cause, two separate specimens should be collected for fee-exempt testing at the WSLH:

For mumps testing, a buccal swab should be collected for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.* The swab should be collected as soon as possible (preferably within three days of parotitis onset and not more than nine days after parotitis onset) for the best opportunity to detect mumps virus.

For influenza and other respiratory pathogen testing (which is part of the respiratory virus PCR panel), either a nasopharyngeal (preferred) or an oropharyngeal swab should be collected.

Additional information from the WSLH regarding testing and specimen collection for mumps can be found at: <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/mumps-testing-guidance/>

*Note: Although serology was once recommended as an acceptable test for mumps diagnosis, the reported rates of false positive and false negative results, particularly among MMR-vaccinated individuals, have made interpretation difficult. As a result, the WSLH does not perform IgM or IgG testing for mumps and continues to recommend PCR as the preferred diagnostic test for mumps.