



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

VESICULAR RASH FOR ENTEROVIRUS PCR

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: Refrigerated (2–8 °C / 36 °F – 46 °F) or frozen temperature (-70 °C / -94 °F).

Maximum Holding Time: 72 hours for refrigerated specimens.

Exceptions: For any exceptions to collection, storage, or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

- A nasopharyngeal swab placed in viral transport medium (VTM) is preferred.
 - To collect a nasopharyngeal swab, firmly rub the nasopharyngeal passage with a sterile Dacron swab to dislodge epithelial cells. Place swab in VTM.
- Other acceptable specimen types are: 1) throat swab in VTM, 2) nasopharyngeal aspirate in a sterile container, 3) cerebrospinal fluid in a sterile container, 4) bronchial alveolar lavage in a sterile container, and 5) tracheal aspirate in a sterile container.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6300: Enterovirus PCR

REJECTION CRITERIA

- Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips and wooden shafts.
- Specimens that have not been refrigerated or frozen after 72 hours from collection date.
- Incomplete specimen labeling/documentation
- Insufficient specimen volume

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness.

Nasopharyngeal swab instructions

1. Ask the patient to blow their nose to clear their nasal passage and tilt the patient's head backwards.
2. Swiftly insert swab (smaller swab in VTM collection kit) into one nostril straight back (not upwards) at a depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear (see image on backside of page).
3. Firmly rotate the swab up to 5 times and hold in place for 5-10 seconds to collect epithelial cells.
4. Repeat with the other nostril using the same swab.
5. Snap the swab at the scored breakpoint line; place swab in VTM; close the tube tightly.
6. Label the tube with the patient's name, date of birth, and the date/time of collection.
7. Place the collection tube inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
8. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
9. Transport to the laboratory within 72 hours of collection (refrigerated).