This guide walks providers through the process of collecting and transporting potential Mumps specimens to the Washington Public Health Lab.

**Serologic Testing for Mumps**
In most cases if serologic testing is desired, send serum commercially and request both IgM and IgG results.

**Collection of Specimens for PCR Testing**
- On days 0-3 after onset of parotitis, collect a buccal swab only.
- On days 4-10 after onset of parotitis, collect both a buccal swab and urine.
- Please consult with your Local Health Jurisdiction about what testing can be considered if more than 10 days has elapsed since onset of parotitis.

1. **Collect the Mumps Specimen, following Mumps RT-PCR collection guidelines:**

2. **Complete the WAPHL Virology Specimen Submission form:**
   [http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-017-SerVirHIV.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/302-017-SerVirHIV.pdf)
   Make sure all of the following information is filled out:
   - Patient name, second identifier (e.g. date of birth), and county of residence
   - Specimen type, date of collection, onset date and test requested (Mumps RT-PCR)
   - Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers

3. **Once the Mumps specimen has been collected, prepare the specimen securely:**
   - Make sure the cap of the transport tube is securely closed.
   - Make sure the patient’s name and second identifier are listed on the specimen tube and match the specimen submission form.
   - Prepare a Biohazard Ziploc (plastic) bag containing a piece of super absorbent paper.
   - Place the taped or para-filmed tube in the bag prevent potential leaking.
   - Place the WAPHL submission form in the outer pouch of the Biohazard bag. DO NOT place any paperwork inside the pouch with the specimen tube.

4. **Prepare the Mumps specimen for shipment:**
   - Place the Mumps Specimen contained in the Biohazard bag into a Saf-T-Pak plastic bag.
   - Place the Saf-T-Pak plastic bag into a white Tyvek bag.
   - Place the white Tyvek bag into a large plastic bag with frozen ice packs or dry ice, and place everything into the Saf-T-Pak cardboard box.
   - Add packing material as needed to prevent contents from shifting during shipment.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).
• Place specimen into a special shipping container labeled as “Biological Substance, Category B.”

5. **Ship the Mumps specimen:**
   • Choose a delivery service with package delivery within 24 hours.
   • Lab receiving hours are 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 12pm on Saturday. Saturday delivery is discouraged.
   • Reusable shippers should be covered in clear packing tape and indicate a ‘Please return to’ address on the outer box so WAPHL can ship it back.

**Testing schedule at the WAPHL:**

The turnaround time for mumps RT-PCR is 3 business days.

**The cutoff for arrival on the current business day is 2pm.** For turnaround time purposes, specimens that arrive after 2pm will be considered "arrived" on the next business day.