Is it mumps?

Provider Quick Reference Guide

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment needs your help in identifying, testing and reporting patients with mumps symptoms: Parotitis (swollen salivary glands under the ears on one or both sides), fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite.

Reporting requirement
- Health care providers should report all suspected mumps cases within 4 hours of visit and before receipt of laboratory results to KDHE’s epidemiology hotline at 877-427-7317.
- Clinical diagnosis of mumps requires laboratory confirmation. KDHE will authorize testing at KHEL and initiate an investigation to prevent and control the spread of disease.

What samples should I collect?
- **Buccal swab - PCR testing**
  - Must collect ≤5 days of parotitis onset
  - Can be tested at KHEL (if authorized)
    KHEL criteria: Parotitis OR oophoritis, orchitis, pancreatitis, encephalitis/meningitis
- **Blood sample - Serology**
  - Collect for unvaccinated individuals ≥5 days of parotitis onset
  - Should be tested by private laboratory
- **Respiratory Viral Panel**
  - Collect for alternate diagnosis
  - Can be tested by KHEL

A specimen tested negative by PCR, does this rule out mumps infection?
No. The viral titer might be low, and shipping/processing conditions can interfere with tests. Also, a buccal swab test might appear negative if collected ≥3 days after parotitis onset. Alternative diagnosis is possible by respiratory viral panel testing.

What do the serology results mean?
A positive IgM test in an unvaccinated individual shows current/recent infection. Collection <5 days of parotitis onset could result in a false negative test. IgG testing is only confirmatory if acute and convalescent (2-3 weeks after onset) samples are collected.

Consult your local health department if you need guidance on case confirmation criteria.

For more information and specimen submission instructions, go to www.kdheks.gov/epi/mumps.htm