

Illustration of Parotid Gland and Instructions for Collection of Buccal Fluid

Adapted from the Illinois Dept. of Public Health – Div. of Laboratories (Chicago Virology Section)

Collection of a mumps specimen for viral and PCR testing: Massage the parotid (salivary) glands for 30 seconds.

Swab the buccal cavity (photo below), which is the space near the upper rear molars between the cheek and the teeth. Swab the area between the cheek and gum by sweeping the swab near the upper molar to the lower molar area.

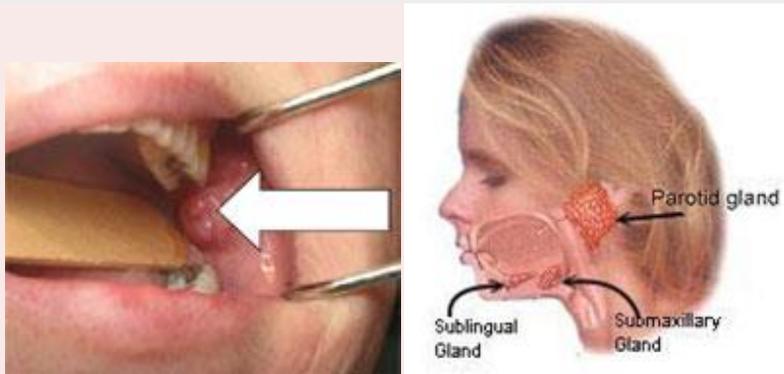


Illustration of parotid gland

Specimen Preparation: Swabs being sent to IDPH lab should be placed in protective sheath, no viral media is required. Check with commercial labs for specifications for specimen preparation.

Storage and Shipment: Following collection, samples should be maintained at 4°C and shipped on cold packs (4°C) within 24 hours. If there is a delay in shipment, the sample is best preserved by freezing at –70°C. Frozen samples should be shipped on dry ice.