

## Mumps – diagnostic laboratory testing advice

**Contact Public Health/Clinical Microbiologist prior to testing for mumps.**

### **Laboratory testing: Serological diagnosis is difficult, particularly in the previously**

**vaccinated.** In this situation the IgM response is often absent, and diagnosis depends on IgG changes based on two samples

- A viral buccal swab for PCR ideally within 3 days, up to 7 days of parotitis onset is the recommended sample.
  - The buccal area is the space near the upper rear molars between the cheek and gum. In unilateral parotitis swab the affected side
  - Results may take several days if testing occurs at another laboratory
- Mumps IgM serology is not routinely recommended for diagnostic purposes. It can be useful as an early indication for public health purposes and may be advised in discussion with public health.
- **Include** history of MMR vaccination and date of onset of parotitis on the laboratory request form