



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Varicella-Zoster Virus Detection by Real-Time RT PCR Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes: Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) / Human Herpesvirus 3; the causative agent of “Chicken Pox” or “shingles” is a reportable condition is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vesicular fluid and/or scab material is collected using polyester swab; place in viral transport media• CSF, UNDILUTED (1.0ml minimum, 1.5ml preferred) in sterile, leakproof container• ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-CSF specimens should be submitted in viral transport media/other appropriate transport media.• Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Use frozen cold packs to transport all sample types to the lab.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze• Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers• Use of wooden shaft or calcium alginate swab• Do Not dilute spinal fluid
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varicella zoster DNA Detected or Varicella zoster DNA Not Detected .• Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$110.00• Fee may be waived if testing/identification is part of an outbreak investigation by Maine CDC
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87798
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704• Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706