



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
47 Independence Drive
12 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Varicella-Zoster Virus Detection by Real-Time 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 synthetic-tipped swab; place in viral or universal 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 to 8 °C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Ship specimens on frozen cold packs.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt
Rejection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a requisition form, clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. Specimens in poorly labeled, unlabeled, or leaking containers. Specimens transported at incorrect temperature. Calcium alginate swabs, or swabs with wooden shafts.• CSF diluted in any form will not be tested
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 (Fee may be waived if testing 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