



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
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### **New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)** **Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport and Submission – Enterovirus D68**

Consideration for testing of patients with suspected Enterovirus D-68 (EV D-68) at CDC should be guided by the surveillance criteria and in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). NJDOH will work with LHD on evaluating patient reports submitted and contacting facilities regarding specimen approval. The NJDOH Public Health and Environmental Laboratory (PHEL) is not currently able to test for enteroviruses or conduct D-68 testing. No specimen will be tested by CDC until the case has been reviewed and approved by the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service (CDS). Once a specimen has been approved for testing please refer to the following instructions on appropriate collection, testing and shipping of specimens.

#### **Instructions**

- Appropriate infection control procedures should be followed when collecting samples. (<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>)
- Any of the following specimen types will be accepted and should be collected within a week of illness onset: NP/OP swab, NP/OP wash or aspirate. These specimens have a high diagnostic yield but a rectal swab or stool sample is also acceptable.
- Use only sterile dacron or rayon swabs with plastic shafts or flocked swabs if available. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden sticks, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit some molecular assays.
- Place the NP/OP swabs immediately into a sterile vial containing 2 ml of viral transport media without antibiotics. If you do not have viral transport media or other media the swab(s) may be sent dry. Aseptically, cut or break applicator stick off near the tip to permit tightening of the cap. Sterile PBS or Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS) (no antibiotics) can be used in lieu of viral transport medium.
- Specimens should be frozen and held at -20° C until they are ready to be shipped.
- Specimens from patients meeting surveillance criteria but not approved by NJDOH should be held frozen for 10 days and can then be discarded
- The vial containing the collected specimen should be labeled with a minimum of two unique patient identifiers. Patient identifiers can include: patient's first and last name, date of birth, medical record number, date of collection, and specimen type. Ideally every specimen should include all of this information.
- Every specimen submitted to PHEL should include a SRD-1 (<http://www.state.nj.us/health/forms/srd-4.pdf>) that can be printed out and completed by hand and a CDC 50.34 (<http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html>) form that should preferably be completed electronically. Paper copies of both the SRD-1 and CDC 50.34 should accompany each specimen submitted to PHEL. In addition, the CDC 50.34 form should be emailed to [deepam.thomas@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:deepam.thomas@doh.state.nj.us).

- Specimens which are not labeled correctly or do not include the two submission forms (SRD-1, CDC 50.34) will not be accepted for testing.
- If facilities are using a commercial carrier for shipping, specimens need to be sent overnight on dry ice and packaged appropriately to ensure cold chain is maintained and specimen stays intact. PHEL courier stops or other couriers used by the facility can also be used to transport specimens to PHEL.
- Facilities should ensure that the specimen will be received at PHEL during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Samples collected during the weekend should be held frozen and shipped on Monday.
- Specimens should be mailed to the following address:  
New Jersey Public Health, Environmental and Agricultural Laboratories  
3 Schwarzkopf Drive  
Ewing, NJ 08628  
Attn: Maria Orsini

**References:**

Directions to NJDOH PHEL

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/forms/vir-16inst.shtml>

NJDOH - General Information Page

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/index.shtml>

CDC - General Information Page

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html>