

<b>Varicella-Zoster Virus Laboratory Submission Information Sheet</b>	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) / Human Herpesvirus 3; the causative agent of “Chicken Pox” or “shingles” is a reportable condition Report suspect cases to MeCDC 24hrs/7days/week at 1-800-821-5821
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	N/A
Required Information: <b>HETL Requisition Form : Patient name written on requisition and patient name on specimen itself must match.</b>	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. <b>IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION</b> Requisition form: <a href="#">PDF</a>
Specimen Requirements:	Vesicular fluid is the preferred sample. Scabs from lesions and cultured viral isolates are acceptable. Saliva, CSF, and biopsy tissue are also acceptable. <b>CSF: DO NOT DILUTE minimum volume is 1.0ml</b> (1.5ml preferred). Vesicular fluid or scab from a single lesion is adequate as long as swab is completely saturated with fluid. More than one scab is preferable.
Collection Instructions:	Collect vesicular fluid on polyester swabs and place in sterile tube. Scab material can be placed directly in sterile tube. Cultured virus isolates and tissue should be placed in cryovials. Please call the Virology section prior to submitting viral isolates or tissue. <b>Do not use wooden swabs or calcium alginate swabs. ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.</b>
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Vesicular fluid and scab material may be kept at refrigerate temperature until shipping. Send samples on ice packs, but not frozen. Cultured virus isolates and biopsy specimens should be frozen and shipped on sufficient dry ice to maintain specimens in a frozen state
Turn Around Time:	PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival.
MeCDC Epidemiologists only	Contact HETL for outbreak kits @ 287-1716
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyze, collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Unlabeled, poorly labeled specimens or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include(PCR):	No Varicella zoster DNA found. Varicella zoster DNA found.
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	With prior authorization from MeCDC, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient. PCR: \$76.00
Applicable CPT Codes:	83891(nucleic acid extraction) 83900 (amplification)
Additional Information:	For VZV specific questions contact Maine HETL Virology at 207-287-1722