

MLS Laboratory Update: Surveillance of Parechovirus in Minnesota

JULY 19, 2022

Purpose of this Message:

Notify clinical laboratories on how to submit specimens for parechovirus (PeV) testing to the MDH-PHL. Specimens will be shipped to the CDC Picornavirus Lab for parechovirus identification and subtyping.

Action Item:

Please review and follow specimen submission instructions below.

Background:

A CDC Health Advisory was sent July 12, 2022, describing a national increase of circulating parechovirus (PeV) infections in neonates and young infants, [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) | CDC](#). Clinicians are encouraged to include PeV in the differential diagnoses of infants presenting with fever, sepsis-like syndrome, or neurologic illness (seizures, meningitis) without another known cause and to test for PeV in children with signs and symptoms compatible with PeV infection. To date, all PeV positive specimens tested and typed at CDC were type PeV-A3. Testing for parechovirus is available through commercial laboratory assays and multiplex platforms from meningitis and encephalitis; check with your standard reference laboratory for availability. The MDH-PHL will accept specimen submission for parechovirus identification testing and parechovirus positive specimens for subtyping, which will be sent to CDC Picorna Lab for testing. Testing turnaround time from the CDC may take up to 2 weeks.

Submission Information:

1. Submitting specimens for parechovirus (PeV) testing.

Specimen Type	Minimum Amount	Collection	Shipping	Comments
Stool	1 gram, 10 – 20 grams preferred	Collect in sterile container, no special medium required	Ship with cold packs	Virus present for longer than other specimen types

Specimen Type	Minimum Amount	Collection	Shipping	Comments
Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)	0.15 mL, 0.5-2 mL preferred	Collect in sterile container, no special medium required.	Ship with cold packs	Collect within 0-4 days of symptom onset (earlier the better)
Serum	0.5 mL, 1 mL preferred	Collect in sterile container with no anticoagulants.	Ship with cold packs	Collect early in infection from younger patients; no serology will be done

2. Complete IDL Submission form, [Forms for the Infectious Disease Laboratory](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html>)

- a. Under “Referral Testing at CDC” (bottom left-hand box on the form), enter one of the following:
 - i. Parechovirus Testing (specimen diagnostic PeV test)
 - ii. Parechovirus Typing (specimen positive for PeV)

- b. Complete Submitting Laboratory comment box (bottom left-hand box on the form):
 - i. Specimen source (required) –
 - ii. PeV test result (required) – not tested or positive
 - iii. PeV test used -

Submitting Laboratory - Specify Any Other Organism/Test Info or Comments:

- 3. Test results from the CDC will be reported back to originating submitter by MDH-PHL.
- 4. No reflex testing will occur at CDC or MDH-PHL if PeV test result is negative.

Questions: Please contact Anna Strain, IDL Manager, anna.strain@state.mn.us

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****PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM****

MLS LABORATORY UPDATE: SURVEILLANCE OF PARECHOVIRUS IN MINNESOTA

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.