HEPATITIS A VIRUS TESTING GUIDANCE

Only patients with an HAV IgM-positive test result and symptoms consistent with hepatitis will be tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing Method</th>
<th>Appropriate Clinical Specimen Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real-time RT-PCR</td>
<td>Serum (EDTA or citrate plasma also acceptable) from HAV IgM-positive patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genotyping</td>
<td>HAV PCR-positive serum or plasma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health care providers must obtain approval from their local public health department prior to shipment.

Serum or Plasma
- Collect 5 ml of blood in a red top or serum separator tube. EDTA and citrate blood tubes also are acceptable.
- Capillary blood (finger or heel stick) can be used for pediatric patients, if necessary; at least 3-5 capillary tubes are needed.
- Do not freeze the blood before serum or plasma has been removed. Separate blood cells from serum or plasma prior to shipment. Transfer serum/plasma to a sterile tube that has an externally threaded cap with an O-ring seal.
- The minimum volume for testing is 0.5 ml.

Specimen storage and shipping
- Store specimens at 4°C and ship on cold pack within 24 to 72 hours.
- Longer storage: store and ship at -70°C.

Enhanced hepatitis A surveillance
- Please submit HAV IgM-positive serum or plasma specimens for molecular confirmatory testing (PCR) and genotyping of HAV case-patients with compatible symptoms and who:
  - are experiencing homelessness;
  - have a history of drug abuse or are currently abusing drugs;
  - recently traveled to an endemic area;
  - are MSM; OR
  - have an epidemiologic linkage to any of the above risk groups.
- Specimens also may be submitted from patients who meet clinical case criteria but lack known HAV risk factors.

Complete the VRDL General Purpose Specimen Submittal Form for each specimen (VRDL Specimen Submittal Form):
- Include hard copy of form with specimens, noting:
  - Date of jaundice onset (or symptom onset, if no jaundice)
  - Liver enzyme (ALT/AST) values
  - Travel history or other risk factors
  - CalREDIE ID# if available
  - HAV vaccination date, if known.
- Notify CDPH by secure email to VRDL-submittal@cdph.ca.gov and vpdreport@cdph.ca.gov. Include a PDF of the VRDL submittal form and the name and phone number of the investigator in your jurisdiction who can provide additional information.

Ship approved specimens to: CDPH VRDL
Attn: Specimen Receiving
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804

Other resources
- CDPH Hepatitis A disease webpage
- Hepatitis A “Quicksheet” for local health departments

Questions about specimen collection, submittal, or shipping: Please contact the VRDL Medical and Epidemiology Liaison Section at (510) 307-8585 or VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov.

Report suspected, probable, and confirmed cases via CalREDIE or the Hepatitis A Case Report Form or contact the CDPH Immunization Branch at (510) 620-3737 and ask to be referred to the epidemiologist on-call.

Updated 1/22/2020