

Managing Mumps Presentations in the WRHA Emergency Department

Mumps is quite contagious and spreads easily through saliva droplets. Please maintain vigilance for mumps especially among susceptible patients.

Signs and Symptoms

- Low-grade fever, myalgia, anorexia, malaise and headache
- Swelling and pain in one or more salivary glands, usually on both sides of the face
- A potential exposure history

Process

(Ensure masks, alcohol-based hand rub, and appropriate signage are available at triage)

- Follow Routine Practices, especially [Respiratory Hygiene](#) and hand hygiene
- Implement [Droplet Precautions](#) for any person with suspected or confirmed mumps. Mask patient immediately at triage
- Triage suspected patients as expeditiously as possible into a **single patient room** to avoid exposure to contacts in waiting rooms
 - If a private room is not available, cohort with immune patients
 - If this is not possible, maintain spatial separation (at least 2 meters/6 feet) between patients and draw curtains around patient
- Period of communicability: considered to be from 7 days before to 14 days after onset of parotitis. *Maximum infectiousness* occurs 2 days before symptoms until 5 days after
- Susceptible HCWs shall wear a procedure or surgical mask to enter the space of a person with suspected or confirmed mumps. Immune HCWs do not require a mask
- For any transfers (internal or external), advise the receiving facility/unit **IN ADVANCE** the patient is suspected of having mumps. Ensure patient is masked for the transfer
- Report any new suspected or confirmed cases to the site Infection Control Professional (ICP)/ designate immediately during normal working hours. During off hours and weekends, contact the Manitoba Medical Officer of Health on call at 204-788-8666 and submit a [Clinical Notification of Reportable Diseases or Conditions form](#) to Manitoba Health at 204-948-3044
- Collect buccal swab AND urine specimen for viral culture/Mumps RT-PCR, in addition to serology (mumps IgM and IgG; red-top tubes)
 - Submit swab in viral transport medium. These swabs are best collected within 5 days of disease onset. All swabs for mumps detection need to be received at the Cadham Laboratory within 24-48 hours of collections to preserve optimal specimen integrity
 - Send 5-10cc of acute and convalescent serum specimens (approximately 10 days apart) for mumps antibodies, specifically requesting both IgM and IgG testing
 - Document on the CPL General Requisition all clinical signs and symptoms, the date of onset, and any epidemiological link to a known mumps case
- When sending suspect cases home:
 - Do not send home on public transport with multiple passengers (bus)
 - Preferred option: use private vehicle with “previously exposed” contacts (e.g., family members) or immune individuals. If this is not possible
 - Use taxi, with patient masked for full duration of trip

Additional Information on Mumps:

WRHA Mumps Specific Disease Protocol in the [WRHA Acute Care IP&C Manual](#)

WRHA [Microorganism, Infectious Disease Table](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Manitoba Health CDC Mumps Protocol](#)

Canadian Immunization Guide, [Mumps section](#) (immune compromised individuals)