

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 24, 2022

Medical Advisory: Probable Mumps case on Big Island

Dear Healthcare Providers:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is investigating a probable case of mumps in South Kona on the Big Island in an unvaccinated person with no history of travel or exposure to visitors, with suspected secondary transmission to an unvaccinated household contact. While this case is still under active investigation, at this time we have not identified a confirmed linkage to a school setting. To prevent further spread of mumps in our communities, please ensure that your patients are fully immunized with MMR vaccine, remain vigilant for signs of mumps infection, and immediately report any suspected cases to HDOH.

Mumps is an acute viral illness characterized by nonspecific prodromal symptoms (low-grade fever, myalgia, anorexia, malaise, headache) followed several days later by pain, tenderness, and swelling in one or both parotid salivary glands. Swelling usually peaks in 1 to 3 days and then subsides during the following week. Patients may also present with nonspecific symptoms or with primarily respiratory symptoms or may be asymptomatic. Mumps can occur in a person who is fully vaccinated, but vaccinated individuals are at much lower risk for mumps and mumps complications.

The mumps virus is transmitted person to person through direct contact with saliva or respiratory droplets from a person infected with mumps. The incubation period is usually 16 to 18 days, with a range of 12 to 25 days after exposure. The infectious period is considered from 2 days before to 5 days after the onset of parotitis, although virus has been isolated from saliva as early as 7 days prior to and up to 9 days after parotitis onset. Per Hawaii State Law, a person with mumps must be excluded from school, work, other public places, or travel for 9 days after the onset of parotitis.

RT-PCR (real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction) is the preferred test for confirmation of mumps infection. A buccal/parotid swab should be collected, ideally within 3 days and not more than 11-14 days after parotitis onset. The parotid should be massaged for 30 seconds prior to swabbing the area around Stenson's duct with a flocked polyester fiber (e.g. NOT cotton) swab. Swab the area between the cheek and gum by sweeping the swab near the upper molar to the lower molar area. Swabs should be placed in 2 mLs of standard viral transport media. Testing for IgM antibody can also be used to aid in diagnosing mumps. Collection of serum 3 to 10 days after parotitis onset improves the ability to detect IgM. Note: a negative PCR or IgM test in a person with clinically compatible mumps symptoms does not rule out mumps as a diagnosis.

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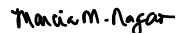
Report any clinically suspected cases of mumps **immediately**. Do NOT wait for laboratory confirmation:

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....(808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office.....(808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office.....(808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo).....(808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)(808) 322-4877
- After hours on Oahu(808) 600-3625
- After hours on neighbor islands(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

For more information, visit the CDC's [Mumps website](#) or the [Mumps Clinical Diagnosis Fact Sheet](#).

We appreciate your vigilance and assistance in protecting our community from the spread of mumps.

Sincerely,



On Behalf of:

Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.
State Epidemiologist