



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Test Title	<i>Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)</i>
Sample Requirements	1. Specimen type: See Table 1 below for full listing of specimen types, requirements, special instructions and rejection criteria.
Sampling Materials	1. Sample container: See Table 1 below.
Procedural Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clinical Test Request Form for submitting clinical samples2. For all samples suspected of containing a biological threat agent contact the IBL Microbiology Section <u>before</u> sample collection and/or submission. TEL: 208-334-22353. Lower respiratory specimens are preferred, but collecting nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal (NP/OP) specimens, as well as serum, are strongly recommended depending upon the length of time between symptom onset and specimen collection. For further reference see the CDC guidelines for collection, handling and testing of specimens for MERS-CoV.4. See Table 1 below for sample specific procedural notes.
Shipping Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Temperature/preservative instructions: Store and transport specimens at 2-8°C. If transport exceeds 72 hours, then freeze at -70°C and ship on dry ice (with exceptions noted below in Table 1).2. Package and ship according to Biological Substance, Category B shipping guidelines.3. Ship to: Idaho Bureau of Laboratories ATTN: LRN-B Laboratory 2220 Old Penitentiary Rd Boise, ID 83712
Reporting and Turnaround Time (TAT)	1. TAT: 1-5 business days

Table 1. MERS-CoV Sampling Guidelines

Sample type	Sampling materials	Sample collection	Procedural notes	Sample rejection criteria
Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid	Sterile, leak-proof, screw-capped sputum collection cup or sterile dry container	Collect 2-3 mL in container.	Preferred specimen type	Unlabeled or improperly packaged specimens that are leaking or otherwise compromised
Sputum		Have the patient rinse the mouth with water and then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into container.		
Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal (NP/OP) swab	Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts.	Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 mL of viral transport media.		
Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirates	Sterile, leak-proof, screw-capped sputum collection cup or sterile dry container	Collect 2-3 mL in container.		
Serum (for serologic testing)	Serologic testing is currently available at CDC upon request and approval. Be aware that the MERS-CoV serologic test is for research/surveillance purposes and not for diagnostic purposes. Contact Idaho Bureau of Laboratories for guidance.			
Serum (for rRT-PCR testing)	Serum separator tube	<u>Children and adults:</u> Collect 5-10 mL of whole blood. <u>Infants:</u> A minimum of 1 mL whole blood is needed for testing pediatric patients.	Best within a week after symptom onset; preferably within 3-4 days after onset	
EDTA blood (plasma)	Blood tube with EDTA (lavender-top) or heparinized (green-top)	Collect 1 tube (10 mL) of blood.	Do not freeze.	
Stool	Cannot be tested at Idaho Bureau of Laboratories at this time.			