

Hepatitis A Laboratory Testing Guidelines

The Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) - Tampa performs hepatitis A sequencing to determine the genotype and subtype of hepatitis A virus (HAV) for all confirmed cases.

BPHL-Tampa can also perform confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for hepatitis A cases that are either highly suspicious but do not meet the confirmed case definition or meet the case definition but have a complicated clinical presentation.

For more information on hepatitis A surveillance, visit FloridaHealth.gov/HepAData.

Sequencing at BPHL



Confirmed hepatitis A case

- IgM positive
- Meets clinical case definition



Ship to BPHL-Tampa



Hepatitis A sequencing performed at BPHL-Tampa

PCR Testing at BPHL



Hepatitis A rule out

- Not confirmed but highly suspicious
- Symptoms vague/uncertain
- LFTs mildly elevated
- Complicated clinical presentation



Consult with hepatitis A case reviewer for PCR approval



Ship to BPHL-Tampa



Hepatitis A PCR testing performed at BPHL-Tampa

Specimen Submission to BPHL

- At least 1 mL of serum is required
 - Ship in an insulated cooler with frozen gel ice packs
 - Do not freeze
 - Do not ship whole blood
 - Follow packaging and shipping guidelines for diagnostic specimens (see [GSI chapter](#) for details)
- Send specimens to BPHL-Tampa at 3602 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612
 - Make sure package is addressed "Attention to Virology"
- Complete [DH 1847 submission form](#)
 - Write "hepatitis A sequencing" in the comments section
 - Do **not** select the "hepatitis A IgM" box in the serology section of the form
 - Include symptom onset and specimen collection date
 - Provide form to shipper to be included with specimen

For additional questions, please contact your [regional epidemiologist and laboratory liaison](#)