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 or Andrea Leapley at Andrea.Leapley@FLHealth.gov.