

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	MERS coronavirus (MERS CoV)
Other Name (s)	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, real-time PCR, RT-PCR, real-time RT-PCR, nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT)
Analyte(s)	MERS coronavirus (MERS CoV)
Test Code	9746
Lab location	Jacksonville location
Department	Virology
Prior Authorization	Requires prior approval from Regional Epidemiology and notification to the testing lab. Contact local County Health Department to start the process for approval.
Required Forms	Test Requisition Form, DH1847. Medical History needed (i.e., onset date, collection date, travel history and symptoms).
Specimen Sources	Sputum or other lower respiratory specimen (priority), nasopharyngeal or throat swab, serum. Recommended to collect Lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum for testing.
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	N/A
Minimum Volume	300 μ L (0.3 mL)
Storage Conditions	Refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C or frozen at \leq -20°C for up to 72 hours.
Collection Media	Dacron swab in Viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM) Serum separator -red or tiger top tube.
Specimen Labeling	-Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers, Ex: Name and DOB. -The collection date and time if submitting multiple specimens. -Information on the specimen must match the requisition.
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Specimens must be shipped between (2-8°C) or frozen (\leq -20°C) on dry ice. Separate multiple specimens into different bags (preferred).
Test Methodology	Real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay
Turnaround Time	1 - 5 days
Result Indicator	MERS coronavirus detected or no virus detected
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips or with wooden shafts. Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens, insufficient quantity for testing, incorrect collection tube/transport media, grossly contaminated specimen, disparity between ID on sample and paperwork, improper collection, storage or transport of specimen, no test requested, test requested is not performed. If required, the absence of patient history. If required, the lack of patient history that is compatible with test requested. Test order cancelled by provider, broken, or leaked in transit, etc.
Interferences and Limitations	Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips or with wooden shafts, can result in inactivation of some viruses and inhibit some molecular assays
Additional Information & Notes	Please confirm information with Epidemiology. Requires prior arrangement with Epidemiology.
Reference Range	MERS coronavirus detected or no virus detected
Reference Lab	CDC if needed
Reflex testing	none