



Sampling Guidelines for Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (Equids only)

Please note, these guidelines are for clinical equids only. **Only Category II NVAP Accredited Veterinarian may collect samples for equine VSV rule-out.** If you have clinical suspects of other species, please contact California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) first at 916-900-5002 to obtain sampling and submission information.

1. Collect diagnostic specimens ONLY from animals with lesions.
2. Specimens to collect:
 - a. Vesicular fluid (from unruptured vesicles) – place in screw-cap tube. If a screw-cap tube is not available, place in plastic serum tube (“snapcap”) and tape (electrical) or parafilm the lid to prevent leakage. DO NOT submit in a syringe.
 - b. Vesicular tissue (epithelium) – place in screw-cap tube with a maximum of 3 mL of tris-buffered tryptose broth (TBTB). Enough media to cover the tissue is sufficient.
 - c. Sterile swabs – (Dacron/polyester with a plastic shaft) swabs of lesions placed in a screw-cap tube with a maximum of 3 mL TBTB media. Do not submit wooden shaft swabs. If you do not have TBTB media, use of sterile saline is acceptable. Use 0.5cc or less, just enough to keep the swab moist.
 - d. Serum – at least 2 mL, preferably separated from the clot (CF test can be negatively impacted if serum is not separated from the clot).
3. Submission of samples:
 - a. All samples for virus isolation and PCR (swabs, tissue, vesicular fluid) must be shipped overnight for arrival at the laboratory as soon as possible after collection. For samples collected on a Friday, contact the laboratory at 530-752-8700 for assistance in making special arrangements for Saturday delivery. Ship samples with frozen ice packs but protect samples from cold source so freezing of the specimen does not occur.
 - b. For serum samples only - If it is impractical to ship for arrival within 24 hours of collection, refrigerate serum (DO NOT freeze) and ship as soon as possible by overnight service with frozen ice packs.
 - c. Contact CDFA at 916-900-5002 to consult with district veterinarian to obtain regulatory case ID for expedited processing of samples.
 - d. Submit all clinical equids samples to UC Davis California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory. Submission forms can be found at <https://cahfs.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/submitting/submission-forms>.
 - e. Ship all samples with submission form overnight to:
 - i. UC Davis CAHFS
620 West Health Sciences Dr
Davis, CA 95616
4. If you have not reported your clinical equid case to CDFA yet, please fill out report at <https://forms.gle/VsiNZjZnuXd1Z9nZ9> and a CDFA district veterinarian will get back to you within one business day.