Preferred specimen: Parotid gland duct swab in M4 viral transport medium collected within 9 days of onset of symptoms.

Buccal swab (Mumps PCR): Swab the buccal cavity (the space between the cheek and teeth). The parotid duct drains in this space near the upper molars.

1. Massage the parotid gland area just in front of the ear and near the angle of the jaw for 30 seconds prior to collecting secretions on the swab.
2. Swab the area between the cheek and gum by sweeping the swab near the upper molar to the lower molar area.
3. Place swab in M4 viral transport medium and do not remove swab.
4. Label swab transport with two patient identifiers and transport to the laboratory refrigerated.

Diagram of process in collection for Mumps testing.