



VARICELLA ZOSTER VIRUS (VZV)

Protocol Overview and Methods:

Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) is part of family of eight herpes viruses known to infect humans (and other vertebrates). It commonly causes chicken-pox in children and Herpes zoster (shingles) in adults.

DPHL can test for Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) in specimens from patients via qPCR at low and moderate risk categories according to evaluation criteria in the CDC rash illness protocol.

- Herpes simplex virus identification/rule-out testing is performed via DFA and cell culture only.
- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present DNA segments from VZV are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. **Specimens from patients in the high-risk category for possible smallpox will not be tested at DPHL.**

Contact Information:

DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For More Information:

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>