

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI/VIR/10/v02	Page 1 of 2
Section: Virology Manual	Subject Title: Throat/Mouth Washings	
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THROAT/MOUTH/WASHINGS (PMH)

I. Introduction

These specimens are routinely set up for herpes simplex virus only. Other viruses such as enteroviruses will be looked for only if specifically requested. Refer to Appendix XV (Virus Isolation and Identification) to ensure that the appropriate media is inoculated.

II. Collection and Transport

Mouth or throat washings are collected using sterile saline and placed in a clean, sterile container and transported to the laboratory as soon as possible. If a delay in transport or processing is anticipated, keep the specimen at 4°C.

III. Procedure

A. Processing of Specimen:

- a) Transfer 2mL of specimen to a sterile freezer vial.
- b) Add 0.2 mL (4 drops) of gentamicin and 0.1 mL (2 drops) of fungizone to a final concentration of 100 µg/mL and 10 µg/mL respectively.
- c) Let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes.

B. Direct Examination: Not done.

C. Isolation and Identification:

Method	Cell Lines^a	Incubation at 36°C	Stain^b used
Shell Vial	MRC-5	1 day	HSV1
	MRC-5	1 day	HSV2

^aMRC-5 = Human diploid fibroblast cells

^bHSV1= Monoclonal antibody DFA stain for Herpes simplex 1

^bHSV2= Monoclonal antibody DFA stain for Herpes simplex 2

Refer to Appendix II for Shell Vial staining and interpretation.

