

**Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory**  
**TEST MENU**

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**Varicella zoster virus (VZV)**

<b>Method</b>	Nucleic acid detection by real-time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FDA approved the method
<b>CPT Code</b>	87801Molecular amplification, multiple agents 83891Extraction of highly purified nucleic acid
<b>Specimen</b>	<b>Contact laboratory before sample collection</b> Vesicle fluid, skin, crust, "roof." A dry or wet swab of the lesion (dry swab is preferred) Touch prep (slide) of lesion Fresh biopsy of pustule or vesicle (no formalin)
<b>Collect in</b>	Sterile collection container, slides, swabs in the transport container
<b>Labeling</b>	Label transport tube with patient's first and last name. Record date and time collected on the tube.
<b>Processing</b>	Indicate specimen source on requisition form
<b>Transport</b>	Store and transport refrigerated (2-8°C) within 24 hours or freeze (-20 ° C)
<b>Sample Rejection</b>	Mislabeled/unlabeled specimen - Specimen quantity not sufficient for testing (QNS)
<b>Requisition</b>	<a href="#">SNPHL Request Forms</a> Testing is performed only at the request of SNHD
<b>Turn Around Time</b>	24 hours following receipt in the laboratory
<b>Results</b>	VZV DNA detected (positive) or not detected (negative)
<b>Reported</b>	System generated fax; Electronic transmission
<b>Note</b>	If inhibitors are present in DNA extraction, PCR assays may produce a false negative result. A false negative result may occur if a sample is improperly collected, transported or handled. False negative results may occur if inadequate numbers of organisms are present in the sample.
<b>Contact</b>	Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory – Virology Department