




Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection



Specimen Type	<p align="center">PCR TESTING</p> <p align="center">** Measles Specimens **</p>
<p>Materials</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes • Specimen submission forms (G2V) • Personal protective equipment • Tongue depressors • Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon • NO cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or any that contain calcium alginate
<p>Proper Specimen Collection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use expired media – be sure to check the expiration date • With mouth open, depress tongue • Swab posterior pharynx, avoiding the tonsils • Put tip of swab in the VTM, breaking applicator stick • Seal properly • Freeze or refrigerate • Prepare for shipment • Throat swabs are the preferred specimens for DSHS testing • Nasopharyngeal swabs and urine are also acceptable specimens for measles testing
<p>Specimen Handling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible • Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -70° C • If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C • If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -70° C • DO NOT store samples in a standard freezer – this inactivates the virus • DO NOT have repeated freeze thaw cycles – this inactivates the virus
<p>Specimen Shipping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not ship on Fridays or before government holidays • Specimens stored at 4°C are shipped using cold packs • Specimens stored at -70° C are shipped on dry ice • Complete the G2V form for each specimen • Check “Measles PCR” in Section 4 of the G2V • The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly • Ship to the physical address ATTN: Lab Services • Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped
<p>Additional Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect as soon as possible after rash onset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferably within five days • Not more than ten days after onset <p align="center">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles PCR http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html</p>



Measles SERUM Specimen Collection



Specimen Type	IgM and IgG Antibody Testing ** Measles Specimens **
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red top tubes and serum separator tubes OR gold top OR tiger top tubes• Specimen Submission forms (G2A)• Personal Protective Equipment• Centrifuge
Proper Specimen Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not use expired tubes – be sure to check the expiration date• RED TOP TUBE<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Collect at least 5mL of blood in red top tube○ Centrifuge the red top tube○ Transfer the serum into a serum transport tube• GOLD/TIGER TOP TUBE<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Collect at least 5mL of blood in gold/tiger top tube○ Centrifuge the gold/tiger top tube• Seal properly• Refrigerate or freeze (do not freeze serum separator tubes, gold top tubes or whole blood)• Prepare for shipment
Specimen Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible• Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -20° C• If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C• If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -20° C• Do not freeze whole blood in red top tube for shipping• Do not freeze serum in gold top or serum separator tube for shipping
Specimen Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not ship on Fridays or before government holidays• Do not ship whole blood• Specimens that will arrive at the lab within 48 hours of collection can be stored at 4°C and should be shipped using cold packs• Specimens that will arrive at the lab more than 48 hours after collection should be stored at -20° C and shipped on dry ice• Complete the G2A form for each specimen• Check “Rubeola screen” and “Rubeola IgM” in Section 7 of the G2A• The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly• Ship to the physical address ATTN: Lab Services• Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect as soon as possible after rash onset, up to 30 days• Patients with an MMR vaccine in the past 6-45 days are not recommended for serology testing. <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles serology http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/serology.html</p>