




## Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection



Specimen Type	<b>PCR TESTING</b> ** Measles Specimens **
<b>Materials</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes</li><li>• Specimen submission forms (G2V)</li><li>• Personal protective equipment</li><li>• Tongue depressors</li><li>• Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon</li><li>• NO cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or any that contain calcium alginate</li></ul>
<b>Proper Specimen Collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not use expired media – be sure to check the expiration date</li><li>• With mouth open, depress tongue</li><li>• Swab posterior pharynx, avoiding the tonsils</li><li>• Put tip of swab in the VTM, breaking applicator stick</li><li>• Seal properly</li><li>• Freeze or refrigerate</li><li>• Prepare for shipment</li><li>• Throat swabs are the preferred specimens for DSHS testing</li><li>• Nasopharyngeal swabs and urine are also acceptable specimens for measles testing</li></ul>
<b>Specimen Handling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible</li><li>• Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -70° C</li><li>• If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C</li><li>• If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -70° C</li><li>• DO NOT store samples in a standard freezer – this inactivates the virus</li><li>• DO NOT have repeated freeze thaw cycles – this inactivates the virus</li></ul>
<b>Specimen Shipping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not ship on Fridays or before federal holidays</li><li>• Specimens stored at 4°C are shipped using cold packs</li><li>• Specimens stored at -70° C are shipped on dry ice</li><li>• Complete the G2V form for each specimen</li><li>• Check the “Measles PCR” box in Section 4 of the G2V</li><li>• The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly</li><li>• Ship to the physical address ATTN: Lab Services</li><li>• Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped</li></ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collect as soon as possible after rash onset<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preferably within three days</li><li>• Not more than 10-14 days after onset</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles PCR <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html">http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html</a></p>



## Measles SERUM Specimen Collection



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