

Measles Testing at the Health Department Laboratory

If you have a suspected case of measles, call the Infectious Disease Program 24/7 at 802-863-7240. You must contact the Program before submitting specimens for testing.

Collection

*Measles IgM testing must be sent out-of-state by the Health Department Laboratory. Providers may wish to send serology samples directly to reference laboratories for more rapid IgM turnaround time.

PCR

- Oropharyngeal (OP) or nasopharyngeal (NP) swab (polyester or synthetic **only**). Calcium alginate, wooden shafted, and cotton swabs will be rejected.
- Use Viral Transport Media.

IgM* and IgG Antibody

- 7 mL of whole blood.
- **Red top:** Allow the blood to clot thoroughly and centrifuge to remove the serum from the clot. Transfer serum to a new tube.
- **Tiger top:** Centrifuge gel separation tubes within 2 hours of collection.

Specimen Storage and Shipment

PCR

- If the specimen **will** reach the Lab within 72 hours of collection, store and ship at 2-8°C.
- If the specimen **will not** reach the Lab within 72 hours of collection, store and ship at -20°C or colder.

IgM and IgG Antibody

- If the specimen **will** reach the Lab within 48 hours of collection, store and ship at 4°C.
- If the specimen **will not** reach the Lab within 48 hours of collection, store and ship at -20°C.

- Submit a [Clinical Test Request Form](#) for each specimen.
- Use your regular courier for transporting specimens to the Lab.
- If you don't have a courier service, arrangements for courier delivery can be discussed with the Infectious Disease Program.

Turnaround Time: PCR and IgG Antibody Testing

If the Lab receives the specimen **before 12 p.m.**, results will be ready the same day.

If the Lab receives the specimen **after 12 p.m.**, results will be ready the next day.

Testing can be performed after 12 p.m. on a case-by-case basis when deemed necessary by the Infectious Disease Program and the provider.