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

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

**IgM and IgG Antibody**
- 7 mL of whole blood using Red Top or Tiger Top blood collection tube.
- Centrifuge within 2 hours of collection and remove at least 1 mL of serum.

Specimen Storage and Shipment

**PCR**
- If the specimen will reach the Lab within 24 hours of collection, store and ship at 4°C.
- If the specimen will not reach the Lab within 24 hours of collection, store and ship at -70°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.

- Get free measles testing and fast results from the Health Department Laboratory.
- 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

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.

www.healthvermont.gov/measles-providers

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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