

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Measles, RT-PCR (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Nasopharyngeal Swab (NP)*	At illness.  For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.</li> <li>Immediately after collection, place swab directly in 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 2 ml of VTM.</li> </ul>	VTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs to arrive at WAPHL during business hours <b>within</b> 72 hrs of collection. Otherwise or if previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, or if testing will not be completed within 72 hrs, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>
Oropharyngeal Swab					
Dual NP/THR					
Nasal Wash					
Culture Isolate			Isolate from culture.		
Urine			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect in sterile screw capped specimen container.</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 10 ml of urine (50mL preferred).</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Insufficient specimen volume. Leaky specimen.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs to arrive at WAPHL during business hours <b>within</b> 72 hrs of collection. Otherwise or if previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>

**General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain LHJ approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

**NOTE:**

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, second identifier, and date of onset.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.
- Reason for testing at WAPHL.

**Collection kit availability**

Not available.

**Comments**

- Testing requires approval by your local health jurisdiction (LHJ) or state communicable disease epidemiologist.
- The preferred specimen type for detection of measles virus is a nasopharyngeal swab.