

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Measles, RT-PCR (Version 3)

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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 72hrs, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>
Oropharyngeal Swab					
Dual NP/THR					
Nasal Wash					
Culture Isolate			Isolate from culture.		
Urine <sup>+</sup>	Collect ≤ 10 days post symptom onset.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect in sterile screw capped specimen container.</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 20 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.
- Nasopharyngeal swabs will be prioritized for testing during times of high specimen volume. Urine specimens will be tested if no NP swab is submitted.

**Updates**

Updated May 2019: Minimum volume of urine specimen changed to 20ml. Comment to urine specimen added on prioritizing NP swab over urine during high specimen volumes, and testing of urine specimens in the absence of NP swab.