

Suspect Measles Case Specimen Submission Instructions

Suspect measles cases must be reported immediately to the local health department. All suspect measles cases and specimens submitted for testing must be coordinated with an Oregon State Acute and Communicable Disease Epidemiologist at 971-673-111. Specimens for measles testing should be sent directly to the **Washington State Public Health Laboratory (WSPHL)** for testing.

Persons suspected to have measles should have serum drawn and specimens collected for viral isolation and PCR at the time of the first health care provider visit.

Instructions for submitting specimens are below:

SPECIMENS FOR SEROLOGY:

IgM testing requires one serum specimen collected as close to rash onset date as possible. *If a negative result is obtained from a specimen drawn less than 72 hours after rash onset, another specimen will be required.*

IgG testing for acute measles requires two serum specimens, the first (acute) specimen should be drawn as soon after rash onset as possible and the second (convalescent) should be drawn 10 to 30 days after rash onset.

Serum collection:

Draw at least 1cc of serum (or about 3ml blood in a red top tube) for each collection date.

SPECIMENS FOR VIRUS ISOLATION:

Specimens for virus isolation should be collected between 3 and 7 days following rash onset. **Preferred specimens are a nasal wash and urine.**

DO NOT use calcium alginate, cotton or wooden shafted swabs as they inactivate viruses and inhibit PCR reactions and the specimen will be considered UNSATISFACTORY.

Urine collection: Collect 10 - 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container.

Nasal Wash collection: Attach a small piece of plastic tubing to a syringe. Gently inject about 3–5 ml of sterile saline into the nose and quickly aspirate as much of the material back into the syringe and transfer to a centrifuge tube containing 2 – 3 ml viral transport medium.

If a nasal wash cannot be obtained, other acceptable specimens are nasopharyngeal swabs or throat swabs (use a Dacron™ or rayon swab).

Nasopharyngeal swab collection:

Insert a flexible nasopharyngeal swab through the nostril and into the nasopharynx until slight resistance is met (about half the length from the ear to corner of the nose). Gently rotate swab 10 -15 seconds in order to collect adequate epithelial cells. Remove the swab, snap off the end at the scored breakpoint and place into 2–3 ml viral transport medium.

Oropharyngeal (throat) swab collection:

Use a single Dacron® swab to collect secretions from the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas, avoiding the tongue and teeth. Remove swab, snap off the end at the scored breakpoint and insert in a tube containing 2-3 ml of cold viral transport medium.

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION:

All clinical specimens must have two patient identifiers, a name and a second identifier (e.g., date of birth) both on the specimen label and must be accompanied by a completed **WSPHL virology form**. Along with the patient and submitter names, be sure to include the specimen source, date of collection, date of rash onset, and immunization history (if known) on the form: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/Forms/SerVirHIV.pdf>.

For more information on Measles testing at Washington State Public Health Laboratories, refer to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/guidelines/pdf/measles.pdf>.

Before transport ensure that the caps on all tubes are tightly secured and do not leak. Store specimens at 4°C and transport on ice packs as soon as possible to **WSPHL**.

Send Specimens to:

Washington State Department of Health, Public Health Laboratories, 1610 NE 150th St., PO Box 550501, Shoreline, WA 98155-9701, Phone (206) 418-5400

Oregon Contacts:

For collection supplies contact John Powell at 503-693-4114

For specimen shipping and transport information contact Dina McNulty at 503-693-4123 or go to:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/SubmittingSamples/Pages/ShippingTransport.aspx>

For disease reporting and general information go to:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/Lists/Diseases%20AZ%20List/item.aspx?ID=52>