
 Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection	
Specimen Type	<p align="center">PCR TESTING</p> <p align="center">** Measles Specimens **</p>
Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes • Specimen submission forms (G2V) • Personal protective equipment • Tongue depressors • Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon • NO cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or any that contain calcium alginate
Proper Specimen Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use expired media – be sure to check the expiration date • With mouth open, depress tongue • Swab posterior pharynx, avoiding the tonsils • Put tip of swab in the VTM, breaking applicator stick • Seal properly • Freeze or refrigerate • Prepare for shipment • Throat swabs are the preferred specimens for DSHS testing • Nasopharyngeal swabs and urine are also acceptable specimens for measles testing
Specimen Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible • Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -70° C • If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C • If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -70° C • DO NOT store samples in a standard freezer – this inactivates the virus • DO NOT have repeated freeze thaw cycles – this inactivates the virus
Specimen Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not ship on Fridays or before federal holidays • Specimens stored at 4°C are shipped using cold packs • Specimens stored at -70° C are shipped on dry ice • Complete the G2V form for each specimen • Check the “Measles PCR” box in Section 4 of the G2V • The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly • Ship to the physical address ATTN: Lab Services • Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect as soon as possible after rash onset • Preferably within three days • Not more than 10-14 days after onset <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles PCR http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html</p>