

Specimen Collection Guidelines for Measles Testing

Testing Permission:

All testing must first be approved by the client's local health department.

Douglas Co. (402)444-7214 (after hrs 402- 444-7000)

Lancaster Co (402) 441-8053 (after hrs 402-440-1817)

All Other Counties 402-471-1983

Serology for IgM antibodies:

Collect blood using one 6.0 ml SST (gold) or one 6.0 ml Clot (red) vacutainer tube. Separate serum ASAP and transfer to a clean tube. Serum should be kept cold and shipped on cold packs. If transport > 48 hours freeze and then transport on cold pack. Turn-around time may be up to 7 days. IgM positive may not occur until 4 days post-rash onset.

PCR Testing for virus:

Throat (oropharyngeal), nasal or NP (nasopharyngeal) swabs are the preferred samples for detection of measles. Sample should be transferred to 2-3 mls of viral transport medium (dry swabs not accepted). The entire sample should be kept at 4°C and shipped on cold packs. Do not freeze. Specimen stable for 5 to 7 days refrigerated. Turn-around time will be 2-7 days.

Specimen Labeling:

Test subject to CLIA regulations and requires two patient identifiers on the specimen container and the test requisitions (see below). Clearly label specimen type.

Shipping to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory:

All specimens should be sent to the NPHL. Specimens should be packaged with cold packs to maintain at 4°C. Ship using certified packaging material for Category B, UN3373 Biological Substances, following your routine laboratory protocol. If appropriate shipping materials are not available, contact NPHL Client Services at 1-866-290-1406 to arrange courier service.

Special Forms required for submission of measles specimens (available on www.NPHL.org homepage):

Special Microbiology Requisition <http://nphl.org/documents/NPHLSpecialMicroReq.pdf>

Vaccine Preventable Disease

Form <http://nphl.org/documents/MDHMeaslesSendoutForm.pdf>