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| http://www.prc7.org/sites/21547/images/texasprcmap.gif | | **[Texas Department of State Health Services](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/)Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection** |
| Specimen Type | **PCR TESTING**  \*\* Measles Specimens \*\* | |
| http://www.rapidmicrobiology.com/news/509h9p.JPGMaterials | * 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 | * 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 | * 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 | * Do not ship on Fridays or before government 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 “Measles PCR” 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 | * Collect as soon as possible after rash onset * Preferably within five days * Not more than ten days after onset   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles PCR  <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html> | |

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| http://www.prc7.org/sites/21547/images/texasprcmap.gif | | **[Texas Department of State Health Services](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/)Measles SERUM Specimen Collection** |
| Specimen Type | **IgM and IgG Antibody Testing**  \*\* Measles Specimens \*\* | |
| Materials | * Red top tubes and serum separator tubes OR gold top OR tiger top tubes * Specimen Submission forms (G2A) * Personal Protective Equipment * Centrifuge | |
| Proper Specimen Collection | * Do not use expired tubes – be sure to check the expiration date * RED TOP TUBE   + Collect at least 5mL of blood in red top tube   + Centrifuge the red top tube   + Transfer the serum into a serum transport tube * GOLD/TIGER TOP TUBE   + Collect at least 5mL of blood in gold/tiger top tube   + Centrifuge the gold/tiger top tube * Seal properly * Refrigerate or freeze (do not freeze serum separator tubes, gold top tubes or whole blood) * Prepare for shipment | |
| Specimen Handling | * Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible * Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -20° 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 -20° C * Do not freeze whole blood in red top tube for shipping * Do not freeze serum in gold top or serum separator tube for shipping | |
| Specimen Shipping | * Do not ship on Fridays or before government holidays * Do not ship whole blood * Specimens that will arrive at the lab within 48 hours of collection can be stored at 4°C and should be shipped using cold packs * Specimens that will arrive at the lab more than 48 hours after collection should be stored at -20° C and shipped on dry ice * Complete the G2A form for each specimen * Check “Rubeola screen” and “Rubeola IgM” in Section 7 of the G2A * 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 | * Collect as soon as possible after rash onset, up to 30 days * Patients with an MMR vaccine in the past 6-45 days are not recommended for serology testing.   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Measles serology  <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/serology.html> | |