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| http://www.prc7.org/sites/21547/images/texasprcmap.gif  | **Texas Department of State Health ServicesMeasles 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 ServicesMeasles 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
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| 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
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| 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> |