



# Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection



Specimen Type	<p align="center"><b>PCR TESTING</b></p> <p align="center">** Measles Specimens **</p>
Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes</li> <li>• Specimen submission forms (G2V)-one form per specimen</li> <li>• Personal protective equipment</li> <li>• Tongue depressors</li> <li>• Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon</li> <li>• NO cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or any that contain calcium alginate</li> </ul>
Proper Specimen Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not use expired media – be sure to check the expiration date</li> <li>• With mouth open, depress tongue</li> <li>• Swab posterior pharynx, avoiding the tonsils</li> <li>• Put tip of swab in the VTM, breaking applicator stick</li> <li>• Seal properly</li> <li>• Freeze or refrigerate</li> <li>• Prepare for shipment</li> <li>• Throat swabs are the preferred specimens for DSHS testing</li> <li>• Nasopharyngeal swabs are also acceptable specimens for measles testing</li> </ul> <p>Note: urine specimens are sent to the CDC for testing</p>
Specimen Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible</li> <li>• Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -70° C</li> <li>• If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C</li> <li>• If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -70° C.</li> </ul> <p>Note: If shipped cold, specimens must be received cold by the laboratory within 48 hours from the time of collection, otherwise freeze and ship on dry ice. Please remember to send extra cold packs and dry ice to account for the Texas heat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO NOT store samples in a standard freezer – this inactivates the virus</li> <li>• DO NOT have repeated freeze thaw cycles – this inactivates the virus</li> </ul>
Specimen Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not ship on Fridays or before government holiday</li> <li>• Specimens stored at 4°C are shipped using cold packs</li> <li>• Specimens stored at -70° C are shipped on dry ice</li> <li>• Complete the G2V form for each specimen. All specimens must be labeled with at least two patient specific identifiers; both a primary and a secondary identifier. The identifiers must appear on both the specimen tube and the associated specimen submission form. Specimens that do not meet this criteria will be considered unsatisfactory for testing.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/lab/PDF/MRS/G-2V.pdf">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/lab/PDF/MRS/G-2V.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check “Measles PCR” in Section 4 of the G2V</li> <li>• The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly</li> <li>• Ship to the physical address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ATTN: Specimen Receiving</li> <li>Laboratory Services Section, MC 1947</li> <li>Department of State Health Services</li> <li>1100 W. 49th Street</li> <li>Austin, TX 78756-3199</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped</li> </ul>