

## Measles Testing

April 12, 2024

Testing for suspected cases of measles in the Alverno Laboratories service area differs for Indiana vs. Illinois residents. Regardless of patient's residence, it is recommended to order testing on patients who meet certain symptoms and exposure risk criteria. Please see below for details.

### Who should be tested?

Measles testing should be performed on patients who:

- Meet the clinical case definition for measles:
  - Generalized maculopapular rash **AND**
  - Fever  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  **AND**
  - Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis **AND**
  - Within the 21 days prior to symptom onset, had an elevated risk of exposure to measles, including:
    - Had a known exposure to measles **OR**
    - Traveled internationally or to an area with known measles cases **OR**
    - Had contact with someone with a febrile rash illness, particularly if those individuals had traveled internationally or to an area with known measles cases

To avoid false positive results, testing is discouraged for patients with clinical presentation *inconsistent* with measles and no known increased risk of exposures to measles.

### For Patients that are Indiana Residents

- Collect the samples and place 2 uncoded miscellaneous (UNCMS) orders for the tests below
- Send samples to the Central Laboratory, who will forward samples to Quest Laboratories for testing

### PCR Testing

**Quest Test Code:** 39306

**Quest Test Name:** Measles (Rubeola) virus, Real Time PCR, Nasopharyngeal/Throat

**Preferred Specimen:** 1 nasopharyngeal (NP) or throat swab in liquid Amies elution swab (ESwab), VCM, V4 or equivalent (UTM)

**Stability:** 7 days refrigerated

**Transport Temperature:** Refrigerated

### Serology Testing

**Quest Test Code:** 34166

**Quest Test Name:** Measles antibodies (IgG, IgM), Diagnostic

**Preferred Specimen:** 1 mL serum (minimum volume = 0.5 mL serum)

**Stability:** 7 days refrigerated

**Transport Temperature:** Refrigerated





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## **For Patients that are Chicago, IL Residents**

What are the steps for measles testing for Chicago residents?

- Step 1:
  - Complete the CDPH Suspect Measles Report and Testing Request Form which can be located [here](#)
    - This form is to report suspect cases and request testing for CHICAGO RESIDENTS ONLY.
    - An authorization number will be emailed if testing is approved.
- Step 2:
  - Promptly collect the specimen. However, do NOT submit the specimen without CDPH approval.
- Step 3:
  - If approved for testing, complete a *paper* IDPH Laboratory Requisition form with the CDPH issued authorization number obtained via Step 1 above.
  - Submit this form along with the specimen to either IDPH directly or Alverno Central Laboratory. Details below.
  - **Failure to provide this *completed paper* IDPH requisition along with the specimen will result in a rejected and disposed specimen upon arrival to IDPH's laboratory.**

### **RT-PCR Testing**

**Preferred Specimen:** Throat (oropharyngeal), nasal, or nasopharyngeal (NP) dacron- or nylon-tipped swab in viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM). Please note, if collecting both a throat and NP swab, both swabs should be combined in the same vial of transport medium.

**Specimen collection:** Collect specimens within the acute phase of illness, preferably within 3 days of symptom onset

**Stability:** 8 days refrigerated

**Transport Temperature:** Refrigerated

### **Where should specimens be shipped?**

If collecting facility is in Illinois:

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Laboratories  
ATTN: Virology Lab  
2121 W. Taylor St.  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone: 312-793-4760

If collecting facility is in Indiana:

Send samples to Alverno Central Laboratory, who will forward samples to IDPH for testing.

## **For Patients that are Illinois Residents Outside Chicago**

Please follow your local department of public health recommendations.

