

Measles RT-PCR Assay

ANALYTES TESTED: Measles virus nucleic acid.

USE OF TEST: Detection of Measles viral infection.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Test Request Form [MDHHS-6084](#)
- Specimen Collection [DCH-0772](#)
- [Specimen Submission Guidelines](#)
- **Testing must be pre-approved before shipping.** Contact the MDHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology Division (517-335-8165) for approval.
- Transport Temperature: Refrigerated with frozen ice packs (2-8°C) or frozen with dry ice ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$). DO NOT send at room temperature.
- Patient Preparation: None

SPECIMEN TYPE:

- Specimen Required: Throat swab, Oropharyngeal (OP) swab, Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab. Use synthetic swab with a non-wooden shaft eluted in 3 ml viral transport medium (VTM) or universal transport medium (UTM)
- Minimum Acceptable Volume: 3.0 ml
- Container: Swab – plastic container with 3 ml VTM or UTM
- Shipping Unit: Unit 45

SPECIMEN REJECTION CRITERIA:

Critical Data Needed for Testing:

- Patient Name
- Patient date of birth
- Specimen source
- Date collected
- Submitting Agency
- Incomplete test requisition information may lead to testing cancelation or a delay in testing and reporting.

Specimens will be rejected if:

- Specimens lacking two unique patient identifiers (i.e, full name and date of birth, patient number or specimen number) will not be tested.
- Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips and wooden shafts will not be tested.
- The specimen container is received leaking or has been contaminated by another leaking specimen in the same bag.
- The specimen is not properly labeled, or the test requisition is not completed.
- The specimen label does not match the test requisition.
- The collection supplies were expired on date of collection.

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- Specimens received outside of appropriate transport temperature may not be tested.

TEST PERFORMED:

Methodology: Real Time RT-PCR

Turn Around Time: 2 business days AFTER approval

Where/When Performed: Lansing, as needed

RESULT INTERPRETATION:

Reference Range: No virus detected.

Detection of Measles RNA is indicative of infection with Measles virus. A sample from which Measles RNA is not detected does not preclude diagnosis of Measles viral infection. The virus may be present at levels below the limits of detection for this assay or inhibitors of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) may be present.

FEES: N/A

NOTES:

1. Contact the MDHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology Division (517-331-4964 or 517-335-8165) for approval.
2. Specimens are to be refrigerated after collection prior to transport to MDHHS. Transport to MDHHS lab with frozen ice packs included in the specimen collection kit. If there is a delay in shipping more than six days post collection, the sample should be kept frozen at -70°C and shipped on dry ice.

ALIASES: Measles, PCR