

GUIDANCE FOR MEASLES SPECIMEN COLLECTION, SHIPPING, AND TESTING



RECOMMENDED DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FOR MEASLES VIRUS

- ✓ Healthcare providers should collect a throat or nasopharyngeal swab for molecular identification at first contact with the patient.
- ✓ **Healthcare providers considering testing for measles must contact the Alabama Department of Public Health Immunization Division for consultation and approval prior to specimen submission at 1-800-469-4599 or [Measles Consultation Form for Testing](#).**

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & STORAGE

- ✓ To submit approved specimens for measles testing, follow the instructions below for proper collection:
 - o Collect throat or nasopharyngeal swab and place in viral transport medium.
 - o Specimens should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped. Do not freeze.

SPECIMEN SHIPPING

- ✓ For providers who are not Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) Webportal users, complete one [BCL Requisition Form](#) for each specimen and submit with the specimens to the BCL.
 - o Select "Other Test" and write in "Measles."
 - o Include specimen collection date, date of symptom onset, as well as dates and locations of recent travel, and relevant vaccine history.
- ✓ For BCL Webportal users, order "Reference Microbiology" and enter "Measles" in the special comments field.
 - o Submit a separate request for each specimen.
 - o Complete the information under the Auxiliary tab.
- ✓ Place the specimens in an insulated container with **frozen** ice packs for shipping or transportation.
- ✓ IMM field staff will contact the provider to arrange specimen pick-up to the BCL **(at no cost)**.

OR

- ✓ Ship specimens **(at your expense)** directly to the BCL:
204 Legends Court
Prattville, AL 36066-7893
- ✓ Call the BCL at 334-290-6130 or email clab@adph.state.al.us with questions about specimen collection and shipping/transportation.

RESOURCES

- ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html>