**Recommended Diagnostic Testing for Measles Virus**

✓ Healthcare providers should collect a throat or nasopharyngeal swab for molecular identification and serum for serology 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:
  - Collect throat or nasopharyngeal swab and place in viral transport medium.
  - Collect blood specimen in a tiger or gold top (serum separator) tube, centrifuge, and extract serum and place in a sterile tube. Approximately 1-2 mL of serum is needed for measles serologic testing.
  - Specimens should be kept refrigerated (2 – 8°C) until ready to be shipped. Do not freeze.

**Specimen Shipping**

✓ The swab and serum specimens can be shipped together.

✓ For providers who are not Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) Webportal users, complete one **BCL Requisition Form** for each specimen (one for serum and one for the swab) and submit with the specimens to the BCL.
  - Select “Other Test” and write in “Measles”.
  - 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.
  - Submit a separate request for each specimen.
  - 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 **nocost**).

OR

✓ Ship specimens (**at your expense**) directly to the BCL at: 8140 AUM Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

✓ Call the BCL at 334-260-3400 or email **clab@adph.state.al.us** with questions about specimen collection and shipping/transportation.

**Resources**