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