

**Measles Laboratory Testing:**

**Testing Permission:** All testing must first be approved by the client's local health department.

**Serology for IgM antibodies:** collect blood in one 6.0 ml SST (gold) or one 6.0 ml Clot (red) tube. Separate serum ASAP and transfer to a clean tube. Serum should be kept cold and shipped on cold packs. If transport > 48 hours freeze and then transport on cold pack. Turn-around time may be up to 7 days. IgM positive may not occur until 4 days post-rash onset.

**PCR Testing for virus:** throat (oropharyngeal), nasal or NP (nasopharyngeal) swabs are the preferred samples for detection of measles. Sample should be transferred to 2-3 mls of viral transport medium (do not allow to dry out). The entire sample should be kept at 4 °C and shipped on cold packs. Do not freeze. Specimen stable for 5 to 7 days refrigerated.

**Shipping to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL):** All specimens should be sent to NPHL. Specimens can be sent as Category B following your routine laboratory protocol. If appropriate shipping materials are not available, contact NPHL Client Services at 1-866-290-1406 to arrange courier service.

**Special Forms required for submission of measles specimens (available on [www.NPHL.org](http://www.NPHL.org) homepage):**

Special Microbiology Requisition

Minnesota Public Health Department Vaccine Preventable Disease Form

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