



PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509 ■ 845-808-1390

www.putnamcountyny.gov/health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Measles Specimen Collection and Shipping

- ◆ Collect specimens at the first contact with the suspected measles case. Measles virus is most frequently recovered within the first 3 days following rash. Collect specimen no later than 10 days after rash onset.
- ◆ Please consult with your local health department, PCDOH, prior to any specimen shipment at (845) 808-1390.

Specimen Collection for viral testing and serology:

- For measles PCR and culture: Collect both specimen:
 - Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs placed in viral media
 - Urine specimen.
- For measles IgM and IgG: Serum in a serum separator tube.

Procedure

Measles virus PCR and culture

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or throat swab – use viral medium:

- Rub the 2 dry sterile swabs on/in the appropriate area.
- Immerse swab tips in 5ml of stabilizing buffer in the screw cap specimen tube.
- Break the swabs to fit and seal tightly.

Urine

- Urine specimen must be in a sterile centrifuge tube or sterile screw-cap cup.

Measles IgG and IgM serology

- Acute specimen: collect serum within 3-28 days of onset of symptoms.
- Convalescent specimen: collect serum 14-30 days after the first (acute) specimen.
- Acute and convalescent serum specimens need to be collected using serum separator tube.
- When possible, centrifuge serum separator tube 20–30 minutes after collection.

For all specimens collected

- Label specimen containers with patient's name, collection date, and collection time.
- Complete a WADSWORTH lab requisition form (*Infectious Disease Requisition*) for EACH sample, including the patient's history (symptoms, etc., on form).
https://www.wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/1065760803/infectious_diseases_requisition_DOH_4463.pdf



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Transport*

*** All measles specimens should be sent to Wadsworth Labs, not commercial labs.**

- Viral PCR and culture sample
 - If unable to ship within 24 hours, refrigerate.
 - Ship with cold packs.
- Serum
 - Do NOT freeze.
 - Refrigerate until shipping.
 - Ship with cold packs.
 - Samples must have an outer packaging to prevent freezing.

Mailing instructions for NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratories

Please consult with your local health department, PCDOH, prior to any specimen shipment at (845) 808-1390.

- All specimens can be shipped together in one box by overnight mail via a carrier (e.g., UPS, FedEx).
- Please have a separate Wadsworth *Infectious Disease Requisition Form* with each specimen type (serum, urine, NP or throat swab).
- Put packaged specimens into Styrofoam container. Most carriers (UPS, FedEx) require the styrofoam box be encased by a cardboard box.
- Include 1-2 cold packs to keep specimen refrigerated.
- Overnight shipping must be done Monday through Thursday only.
There is no weekend delivery at the Wadsworth Lab unless pre-approved by them.

Overnight delivery (by a carrier only, no USPS) should be mailed to:

***Virus Isolation Laboratory
David Axelrod Institute
Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
120 New Scotland Ave
Albany, NY 12208***