

Measles RT-PCR Testing: Job Aid for Healthcare Providers

Notification to CDPH and Test Authorization:

Providers should notify CDPH immediately upon suspicion of measles. To report a suspected case of measles to CDPH complete the online form (<https://redcap.link/reportmeasles>) available on the CDPH Measles HAN page. If approved for RT-PCR testing, you will receive submission instructions and an authorization code. **Promptly collect a specimen (see instructions below) however WAIT FOR CDPH approval to submit the specimen.** Test requests received after business hours (8:00am-5:00 pm) will be reviewed at the start of the following day.

DO NOT CALL 311 or 312-743-7216 TO REPORT. The online form REPLACES provider reporting of suspected cases to 311.

While awaiting testing, medically stable patients can be discharged as clinically indicated to their homes. If they are unable to isolate at home, providers are instructed to maintain patient under airborne precautions pending test results.

Specimen collection and shipment preparation:

Please refer to IDPH - [Instructions for Measles Virus Submission](#)

- Samples must be properly collected using a Nasopharyngeal or Oropharyngeal swab and placed into Viral Transport Media (VTM), Viral Carrier Media (VCM), or Universal Transport Media (UTM).
- Label each specimen container with:
 - Patient Name, Date of Birth, and Date of Collection.
- Place specimen(s) into a biohazard labeled bag and seal securely.
- Place the test requisition(s) on the outside of the biohazard labeled bag. Failing to include the following information may result in a rejected specimen:
 - The CDPH issued authorization number is **required** it must be entered into the top left portion of the form.
 - A central fax number is **required** on the form. Individual provider faxes are not acceptable and may result in significant delays.
- Place the sealed biohazard bag and test requisition(s) inside the shipping container.
- **If the specimen is collected and will arrive at the IDPH laboratory within 24 hours:**
 - No cold packs are required in the leak-proof outer container.
- **If the specimen is collected and will arrive at the IDPH laboratory after 24 hours:**
 - Place cold packs, which have been frozen for at least 24 hours, in the leak-proof outer container.
- The shipping container must be rigid, such as a Styrofoam cooler, and labeled with the UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B marking.

Specimen Shipping Instructions:

Please ship specimen with a certified Category-B courier service to:

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories (**Back loading dock**)
ATTN: Virology Lab
2121 W. Taylor St.
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone 312-793-4760

Monday – Friday: Specimens received before 10:00AM will have results available by end of day, and specimens received after 10:00AM will have results available by the following day Monday - Friday. IDPH-Chicago lab hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Weekend hours are subject to IDPH/CDPH coordination. Do not ship specimens to IDPH on weekends without explicit prior consultation with CDPH.