



| MEASLES (Rubeola) Laboratory Submission Information Sheet | |
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| Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC: | Yes: Measles is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.) |
| Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen: | Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens for confirmation of cases identified by any laboratory test including serology, RT-PCR or viral culture. |
| Required Information: | Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: Patient name written on requisition and patient name on specimen itself must match. Requisition form: PDF |
| Specimen Requirements: | PCR: Preferred specimen is an oropharyngeal, nasopharyngeal or nasal swab. Serology: IgM Collect plasma or serum seven days and up to 4 weeks after onset of rash. Serum and plasma (EDTA, citrated or heparinized) samples are suitable specimens for the test. Serum is preferred. <i>Note that IgM serology must be ordered by a MeCDC epidemiologist.</i> IgG Collection of an acute (S1) and a convalescent (S2) sample collected 10-14 days apart is desirable to show recent infection. |
| Collection Instructions: | PCR: ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, and Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used. Do not use wooden swabs or calcium alginate swabs. PCR: Swab nasopharynx and/or oropharynx to collect epithelial cells. Swabs should be submitted in viral transport media. Serology: Collect 5-10 ml of blood in a serum separator tube. Allow sample to clot at room temperature. Centrifuge sample so that the red blood cells are separated from the serum. |
| Specimen Handling and Transport: | Collect samples within 5-7 days of rash onset. Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. For faster turn around time to obtain results, consider hand delivery to HETL. Use cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B |
| Turn Around Time: | PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival. Serology results are generally available within 24-48 hours after arrival. |
| Unacceptable Conditions: | Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyze (less than 0.5ml of VTM or Normal Saline for PCR), collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Specimens in poorly labeled. (See required information above) or leaking containers will not be tested. |
| Results Include: | PCR: Positive for measles by PCR; Negative for measles by PCR IgM Serology: Measles IgM Positive, Negative or Equivocal IgG Serology: results will be a numeric value for paired sera indicating the inverse of the dilution (i.e. 1:8 dilution reported as 8). Four fold or greater rise in titer between the S1 and S2 sample is indicative of a recent infection. A less than four fold rise in titer between the two samples indicates past infection. A value of <1:8 means no IgG antibody was detected. |
| Results: | All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax. |
| Laboratory Testing Fee: | With prior authorization from Maine CDC epidemiologist, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient. PCR \$90.00, IgM no charge IgG Serology: Single Serum: \$40 Paired Sera: \$80 |
| Applicable CPT Codes: | 83891(nucleic acid extraction), 83898 (RT), 83900 (amplification); 86765 (IgG serology) |
| Additional Information: | For measles virus specific questions contact Maine HETL - Virology at 207-287-1722 |
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