Measles Lab Testing Instructions

PLEASE NOTE:
All testing for measles will be done at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
Immediately report suspect measles cases to Infection Prevention and Control (651-629-4444).
Measles testing will not be run at MDH without notification to Infection Prevention and Control.
Certain case information needs to be collected and accompany the specimens to MDH

Specimen Types

• A clinical specimen for PCR should be taken as soon as measles is suspected
  – Ideally, a specimen for measles PCR should be obtained within 0-5 days of rash onset (0-9 days at most)
• Collect one of the following specimens for PCR testing at MDH:
  – On day 0-5 of rash, collect a Throat Swab* using a white-top swab.
  – On day 6-9 of rash, collect a Throat Swab* using a white-top swab and Urine Specimen
    *If a Throat Swab cannot be collected, a Nasal Specimen using a green-top swab can be collected instead (Nasal Swab, Nasopharyngeal Swab, or Nasal Wash), but a Throat Swab is the preferred specimen.
• For clinically compatible cases with a known exposure or history of recent travel, consult with Infection Prevention and Control to determine if all three specimens (Throat Swab, Nasal Specimen, and Urine Specimen) should be collected.
• If date of specimen collection is more than 9 days past rash onset, PCR is less likely to detect viral presence and may give false negative results. MDH may still consider using a PCR test and both serology and PCR specimens should be collected. Both specimens should be sent to MDH. Consult with Infection Prevention and Control to determine testing recommendations.

Specimen Collection

• See the MDH Lab Testing for Measles instructions for detail on how to collect the specimens
  Note: Send specimens to Children’s lab (lab will put into Viral Transport Media (VTM) and send to MDH)

Cerner Ordering

1. Look up "measles" under Order tab.
2. Click on Order Set for "Measles for Suspected Disease to MDH", then click "Done".
3. Select the specimen to be collected
4. Click "OK".
5. The next screen you see will have "Decision Support" on the upper banner, and inform you about ordering multiple miscellaneous tests. Click "OK" button on bottom of screen 3 times.
6. Click "Done", then sign.
7. A screen with "Duplicate Order Alert" will appear. Click the "Order Anyway" button 3 times.
8. Refresh, and you should be done.

Note: DO NOT order measles IgM directly through CPOE. Serology testing is not recommended. Follow the instructions above for PCR testing.
Off-site Ambulatory eClinicalWorks Ordering
1. Access the treatment section in ECW to order labs that begin with measles
2. Select the “Measles PCR to MDH (UMSP)” order
3. When the lab is ordered, the options for specimen source are required

Results
- Turnaround time for results is 24-48 hours. Specimens are not run on Saturdays or Sundays (exceptions can be made if it is a highly suspect case).
- Lab will call ordering providers for positive results. Lab will enter negative and positive results in Cerner. If serology and PCR results are done and are discrepant, providers must consult with Infection Prevention and Control to establish if patient should be considered a confirmed case.

Infection Prevention and Control (651-629-4444)
Lab (612-813-6280)