



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Measles Specimen Collection Kit

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C – 8 °C / 35.6 °F – 46.4 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 72 hours for respiratory swabs; 24 hours for urine (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

Exceptions: For any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

KIT STORAGE

Temperature: Room temperature (5 °C – 25 °C / 41 °F – 77 °F)

Expiration: Kit must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

For the best results, please submit both of the following samples types.

1) Respiratory Swabs:

Throat swab in viral transport medium (VTM) preferred: vigorously swab tonsillar areas.

Nasopharyngeal swab in VTM: firmly rub posterior nasopharynx with swab.

Note: Swabs from both sources may be placed in the same tube of VTM.

2) Urine: 10–50 mL urine in sterile container (preferably the first part of stream from the first morning void)

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6180: Measles PCR

REJECTION CRITERIA

- Holding time greater than 24 or 72 hours
- Specimen containers not labeled
- Specimen containers not sealed properly

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Specimens should be collected as soon as measles is suspected (but up to 2 weeks after rash onset).

1. Collect respiratory sample and insert swab into tube of viral transport media (VTM).

Throat (Oropharyngeal) swab – Larger Swab

- a. Firmly swab tonsillar areas and back of throat for 5-10 seconds to collect epithelial cells.

Nasopharyngeal swab – Smaller Swab

- a. Ask the patient to blow their nose to clear their nasal passage and tilt the patient's head backwards.
- b. Swiftly insert swab into one nostril straight back (not upwards) at a depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear (see image on backside of page).
- c. Firmly rotate the swab up to 5 times and hold in place for 5-10 seconds to collect epithelial cells.

2. Snap the swabs at the scored breakpoint line; close the tube tightly.

3. Label the tube with the patient's name, date of birth, and the date/time of collection.

4. Place the collection tube inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.

collection swabs & viral transport media (VTM) tube



SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Measles Testing

5. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
6. Transport to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection (refrigerated).

