

Utah Public Health Lab (UPHL) measles specimen collection and transport guide



Measles is a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the measles virus and is immediately notifiable in Utah. Only PCR specimens collected from **highly suspect cases** should be sent to the Utah Public Health Lab. Any specimen submitted without public health approval will not be tested. The following resources can be used to help assess whether a patient has symptoms and exposure history suggestive of measles, to help you know what specimens need to be collected for testing, and the process for measles specimen transport.

Immediately notify your local health department or Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) of all suspect measles cases:

- Utah DHHS: 1-888-EPI-UTAH
- Find your local health department: <https://ualhd.org>

[Clinical Overview
of measles \(CDC\)](#)

[Frontline healthcare
fact sheet](#)

[Measles clinician
guidance](#)

[RT-PCR collection
specifications](#)

Recommended specimen collection, transport, and testing

RT-PCR collection, testing, and transport

- Nasopharyngeal swab and/or throat swab should be collected within **0-7 days after onset of rash**. If 10+ days have passed since rash onset, specimen should not be collected.
- Samples being submitted to UPHL **must be approved by Utah DHHS** (1-888-EPI-UTAH). Provide date of rash onset when notifying Utah DHHS of suspect case.
- Contact your local public health department to facilitate STAT courier services for RT-PCR sample to UPHL.
- Complete required highlighted fields on the [UPHL Infectious Disease Test Request Form](#). Use Provider Code: **EPIVPD**.
- Select Measles Virus PCR under "VIROLOGY TESTS".
- Ship specimens to UPHL in VTM broth at 2-8 C°. Include the UPHL Infectious Disease Test Request Form.
- Link to additional [shipping specifications](#).

UPHL does not perform serology testing for measles. IgM/IgG testing should be submitted to a commercial lab.