

# 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).
- Contact your local public health department to facilitate STAT courier services for RT-PCR sample to UPHL.
- Complete **required highlighted fields** on the UPHL Test request form. Use Provider Code: **EPIVPD**. Select Measles Virus PCR under "VIROLOGY TESTS".

Shipping  
specifications:



UPHL Test request  
form:



- Ship specimens to UPHL in VTM broth at 2-8 C°.
- Include the UPHL Infectious disease test request form.

\*Provide *date of rash onset* when you notify Utah DHHS of suspect case.

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