

## Measles reference labs

This guide is intended to provide clinicians with information on laboratory options for measles PCR and serology testing. Providers should collect specimens for PCR testing for any patient in whom measles is suspected. Specimens should be referred to a nationally accredited laboratory for confirmatory testing; a list of known labs that conduct measles PCR are shown below. It is also possible to test using serology, however serologic results should be used with caution. Other diseases, such as parvovirus infection, infectious mononucleosis, or rheumatologic disease can cause false-positive measles IgM antibody results. Note that the use of commercial labs may result in patients being billed. Free testing is available through CA VRDL/UPHL, but is limited and must be approved by Utah DHHS. All positive PCR samples should be sent to UPHL for genotyping. Further questions should be directed to the performing laboratory. **Clinicians who suspect measles in a patient should notify public health immediately—1-888-EPI-UTAH.**

Measles reference labs	
<p><b>Lab:</b> <a href="#">ARUP</a></p> <p><b>Testing conducted:</b> NAAT (nucleic acid amplification) and serologies</p> <p><b>Specimen:</b> Nasal, nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP), or throat swab; serum</p> <p><b>Turnaround time upon receipt:</b> 1-3 days for PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Measles assay performed Mon-Sun</li> <li>❖ <b>CAN</b> distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain, but cannot genotype</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lab:</b> <a href="#">Quest Diagnostics</a></p> <p><b>Testing conducted:</b> PCR and serologies</p> <p><b>Specimen:</b> NP or throat swab; serum</p> <p><b>Turnaround time upon receipt:</b> 6 days for PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Measles assay performed Tue-Sat</li> <li>❖ <b>CAN</b> distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain, but cannot genotype</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lab:</b> <a href="#">Labcorp</a></p> <p><b>Testing conducted:</b> PCR and serologies</p> <p><b>Specimen:</b> NP or throat swab; serum</p> <p><b>Turnaround time upon receipt:</b> 3 days for PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Measles assay performed Mon-Sun (temporarily doing weekends)</li> <li>❖ <b>CANNOT</b> distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lab:</b> <a href="#">Rocky Mountain Lab</a></p> <p><b>Testing conducted:</b> PCR and serologies</p> <p><b>Specimen:</b> NP or throat swab; serum</p> <p><b>Turnaround time upon receipt:</b> 24-48 hours for PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Measles assay performed Mon-Sat</li> <li>❖ <b>CANNOT</b> distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain</li> </ul>

**Lab:** [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#)**Testing conducted:** PCR and serologies**Specimen:** Throat swab; serum**Turnaround time upon receipt:** 1-3 days for PCR

- ❖ Measles assay performed Mon-Fri
- ❖ **CANNOT** distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain

**Lab:** [CA VDRL/ UPHL](#)**NOTE: Samples being submitted to UPHL must be approved by Utah DHHS (1-888-EPI-UTAH).****Testing conducted:** PCR**Specimen:** NP or throat swab; urine**Turnaround time upon receipt:** 2 business days for PCR + 3-5 days for shipment

- ❖ Measles assay performed Mon-Fri at CA VDRL. UPHL ships to CA Mon-Wed ONLY
- ❖ **CAN** distinguish between wild-type and vaccine strain. Turnaround time for distinguishing wild type or vaccine strain: 3 business days
- ❖ Genotyping performed. Turnaround time for genotyping: 10 business days

[UPHL measles specimen collection and transport guide](#)