

While measles is confirmed to be circulating in Oregon, clinicians may send specimens to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) for measles PCR testing for patients that meet the criteria for testing. All specimens tested at OSPHL must meet the criteria described.

Different criteria and approval processes may apply when circulation is not confirmed.

## Criteria for testing

Rash illness compatible with measles and with no other explanation for the clinical presentation,

**and**

Unvaccinated or under-vaccinated for measles (i.e., fewer than 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine).

## Infection Control

- Bring patients with suspected measles into the facility in a way that does not expose other patients (e.g., not sitting in a waiting area).
- Institute the highest level of respiratory precautions available (preferably negative-pressure room and staff with N-95 respirators or PAPR).
- Isolate patient so as not to expose others until measles is ruled out.
- Allow no other patients into the exam room for at least 2 hours after the patient with suspected measles has left.

## Report the Suspect Case

Contact your local public health authority (LPHA) to report the suspected case. LPHA contact information: [www.healthoregon.org/lhddirectory](http://www.healthoregon.org/lhddirectory)

Have the case information ready when you call. (name, date of birth, contact information, language spoken, clinical presentation, date of rash onset, travel history, exposure and vaccination history).

## General Specimen Information

### Specimens for real-time RT-PCR:

Collect specimens for PCR as soon as possible after rash onset. Ideally, collect within 3 days but no later than 10 days after illness onset.

**Swabs:** See Page 2 for additional information.

- **Nasopharyngeal swab is the preferred specimen type.**
- Oropharyngeal (throat) swabs are also acceptable.

Urine is accepted but not preferred: 10–50 mL in a sterile container.

## Specimen submission process

- **Complete** an [OSPHL Virology/Immunology Test Request Form](http://www.bitly.com/phl-forms). ([www.bitly.com/phl-forms](http://www.bitly.com/phl-forms))
  - Each specimen requires its own form.
  - Complete all required fields and indicate the requested test.
- **Label** all specimens with at least two unique patient identifiers that match the Test Request Form. Acceptable identifiers include: Full patient name; Date of birth; and Medical record number
- **Keep specimens cold:** Store and ship specimens at refrigerated temperatures. Ship on ice packs.
- **Send specimens** using your facility's courier or via overnight shipping or using your facility's courier to arrive at OSPHL Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

- Specimens must be received within 72 hours of collection and on ice packs to be tested.  
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory  
7202 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Suite 100  
Hillsboro, OR 97124
- If you need to use the OSPHL contracted courier service, visit [www.bitly.com/phl-courier](http://www.bitly.com/phl-courier) to request a pick up. For support or questions, email [osppl.courier@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:osppl.courier@odhsoha.oregon.gov).
- All specimens are subject to the requirements of the [OSPHL Specimen Submission Policy \(pdf\)](#).

## Swab specimen collection

Use a synthetic swab, such as Dacron or rayon, on a plastic shaft.

After the specimen is collected, insert swab into a tube containing 2–3 mL of Viral Transport Media (VTM) or Universal Transport Medium (UTM) and snap off end at the scored breakpoint.

**Nasopharyngeal swab (preferred):** Rotate swab two to three times over surface of the posterior nasopharynx.

**Oropharyngeal (throat) swabs:** Use a single swab to collect secretions from the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas, avoiding the tongue and teeth.

**Combined swabs:** NP and OP swab, both collected and inserted into a single tube containing 2–3 mL VTM or UTM, are also accepted.

Not acceptable for testing: Swabs not in acceptable media, wooden-shafted or calcium alginate swabs, and specimens stored at incorrect temperatures, received more than 72 hours after collection, incorrectly labeled, or that do not otherwise follow [OSPHL Specimen Submission Policy \(pdf\)](#).

Specimen collection guidance adapted from OSPHL Test Menu at [www.healthoregon.org/labtests](http://www.healthoregon.org/labtests).

## Results and turnaround

Results for testing performed by OSPHL will be sent via fax to the submitting facility.

Turnaround time for PCR results is within 3 working days after receipt of the specimens at OSPHL.

## Ordering supplies for testing

Most facilities have supplies meeting the criteria for testing. If your facility does not have the supplies needed to collect specimens, you may order specimen collection kits using the OSPHL Stockroom Order Request Form, posted at [www.bitly.com/phl-forms](http://www.bitly.com/phl-forms).

## Other Laboratory Testing

Measles serology testing is not available at OSPHL. However, for highly suspect cases the **LPHA may request or approve** a serum sample to be forwarded to the Washington State Public Health Laboratory for serology testing. IgM testing is required to test for acute disease.

Measles testing can also be performed by commercial laboratories. If another laboratory will be used, please contact the laboratory for their requirements prior to specimen collection.

## Public Health Contact Information

Epidemiology and disease prevention:

- Local Public Health Authorities: [www.healthoregon.org/lhddirectory](http://www.healthoregon.org/lhddirectory).
- State Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention section: 971-673-1111

Specimen collection and submission questions:

- OSPHL Lab Test Menu: [www.healthoregon.org/labtests](http://www.healthoregon.org/labtests)
- OSPHL Virology/Immunology testing section: 503-693-4100