

Utah Public Health Laboratory

Vaccine Preventable Disease Reference Laboratory Project Testing Referral

Viral Specimen Shipping and Submission Instructions

Testing is offered for suspect cases of measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella-zoster virus.

Labeling Specimens

The specimen(s) should be clearly labeled with unique patient identifier(s).

Results Reporting

The California Department of Public Health, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory, will report results with patient identifiers to Utah Public Health Laboratory. Following sample receipt, results will be reported back to the Utah Public Health Laboratory within the following time frames:

- PCR: 2 business days
- Serology: 3 business days
- Genotyping: 10 business days

Specimens and Testing

General Specimen Submission Note: Each test method has been validated on the specimen types listed in the table below. Alternate specimen types may be submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for testing. See the CDC Test Directory for further information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/list.html>.

NOTE: Complete and attach the California Department of Public Health – Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory General Purpose Specimen Submittal Form with each specimen.



Specimen Types Accepted and Storage Recommendations

Test Menu

Assay	Specimen Type	Minimum Volume	Shipping and Storage	Anticipated Turn Around Time
Measles Virus PCR and Genotyping	Throat swab, Nasopharyngeal swab or Nasopharyngeal aspirate	Respiratory : 250 µL with swab	Swab/Aspirate: store in 2 mL viral transport media at 4°C if shipping within 24 hours. Ship on cold packs. If shipping is delayed, freeze at -70°C. Ship frozen.	PCR: 2 business days Genotyping: 10 business days
Measles Serology*	Serum	300µL	Refrigerate at 4°C. Ship with samples for PCR.	3 business days
Mumps Virus PCR and Genotyping	Buccal swab or Throat swab	250µL with swab	Swab: store in 2 mL viral transport media at 4°C if shipping within 24 hours. Ship on cold packs. If shipping is delayed, freeze at -70°C. Ship frozen.	PCR: 2 business days Genotyping: 10 business days
Rubella Virus PCR and Genotyping	Throat swab, Nasopharyngeal swab or Nasopharyngeal aspirate	250µL with swab	Swab/Aspirate: store in 2 mL viral transport media at 4°C if shipping within 24 hours. Ship on cold packs. If shipping is delayed freeze at -70°C. Ship frozen.	PCR: 2 business days Genotyping: 10 business days
Varicella-zoster Virus PCR and Genotyping	Scabs and/or Dry skin lesion swab	Scab or dry swab	Should be stored and shipped at ambient temperature.	PCR: 2 business days Genotyping: 10 business days

***Measles Serology:** Specimen **WILL NOT** be accepted for serology testing without the simultaneous submission of a specimen type appropriate for measles PCR (throat swab, nasopharyngeal aspirate or swab). There will be no exceptions to the rule.

Genotyping: Genotyping will be performed on all **PCR positive** specimens unless otherwise implicated as part of a larger outbreak. Clinical specimens, nucleic acid extracts, and viral isolates are acceptable.