Testing for Measles

Niagara // // Region

Nasopharyngeal swab, throat swab, and urine samples collected by health care providers for measles PCR testing remain the gold standard for diagnosis. Symptomatic patients under investigation for Measles may present to health care settings during different course/spectrum of illness, therefore multiple specimens collected will help increase the sensitivity for molecular (PCR) testing. Measles PCR testing is not recommended for asymptomatic individuals for clearance or isolation purposes.

Specimen Type	Nasopharyngeal Swab	Throat Swab	Urine Sample
Example	<image/>		
Test	Measles Virus Detection	Measles Virus Detection	Measles Virus Detection
Requisition	Public Health Ontario General Test Requisition	Public Health Ontario General Test Requisition	Public Health Ontario General Test Requisition
Collection Kit	Virus Respiratory Kit # 390082	Virus Culture Kit # 390081	Sterile Container
Timing of Collection	Within 7 Days of Rash Onset	Within 7 Days of Rash Onset	Within 14 Days of Rash Onset

Visit **publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Test-Information-Index/Measles-Diagnostic-PCR** for more information. Priority specimens for measles testing must be packaged separately from routine specimens. To assist with laboratory workflow and to identify priority specimens, please mark STAT on the outside of the package.

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