CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
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San Francisco, CA 94102
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Test Order

Measles PCR

Synonym(s)	*Rubeola or Red measles*
Methodology	Real time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the presence of Measles viral RNA
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Respiratory swab (**throat [oropharyngeal**], nasal, or NP Swab) and **Urine**, within 2 weeks of rash onset.
Transport / Collection Medium	Samples should be received at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. Throat (oropharyngeal)/Nasal/NP Swab: Universal transport medium / viral transport medium (use the Dacron swab included in the kit). Urine: Collect 10-50 ml urine in a sterile container. For samples exceeding 24 hours until transportation to the public health laboratory see *Storage and Preservation of Specimen* for additional processing instructions.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Throat/Nasal/NP swab in UTM/VTM: Refrigerate (2-8°C) until transported to the laboratory and ship on cold packs. Sample should be received at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. If longer storage is necessary, freeze sample at -20ºC or colder until transportation to the public health laboratory is available. Urine: Refrigerate urine sample (2-8°C) until transported to the laboratory and ship on cold packs. Sample should be received at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. For clinics with access to laboratory centrifuges who are processing samples that will exceed 24 hours until transportation to the public health laboratory: Urine samples should be centrifuged at 500-600 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Discard supernatant and resuspend the pellet in 2-3 ml of UTM/ VTM. Freeze the resuspended urine sample in VTM/UTM at -20ºC or colder until transportation to the public health laboratory is available.
Minimum Volume Required	1 ml
Additional Collection Instructions	Throat Swab (preferred respiratory sample): vigorously swab tonsillar areas with sterile Dacron swab. Nasopharyngeal swab: firmly rub posterior nasopharynx with sterile Dacron swab. Place swab into ***liquid*** viral or universal transport medium. Urine: Collect 10-50 ml urine in a sterile container. Collect from first part of urine stream; first morning void is ideal.
Additional Required Information	**N/A**
Send Out?	No
Turnaround Time	5 business days
Testing Restrictions	**Please contact San Francisco Communicable Disease Control at 415-554-2830 for all requests for Measles PCR testing prior to submitting samples to the laboratory. If after hours, follow the instructions to reach the on-call physician.**
Requisition Form(s)	http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1035
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Note: Collect sample as soon as Measles is suspected.