



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
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## Test Order Measles PCR

<b>Synonym(s)</b>	<i>Rubeola or Red measles</i>
<b>Methodology</b>	Real time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the presence of Measles viral RNA
<b>Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing</b>	Respiratory swab ( <b>throat [oropharyngeal]</b> , nasal, or NP Swab) and <b>Urine</b> , within 2 weeks of rash onset.
<b>Transport / Collection Medium</b>	Samples should be received at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.  <u>Throat (oropharyngeal)/Nasal/NP Swab</u> : Universal transport medium / viral transport medium (use the Dacron swab included in the kit).  <u>Urine</u> : Collect 10-50 ml urine in a sterile container. For samples exceeding 24 hours until transportation to the public health laboratory see <i>Storage and Preservation of Specimen</i> for additional processing instructions.
<b>Storage and Preservation of Specimen</b>	<u>Throat/Nasal/NP swab in UTM/VTM</u> : 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 -20°C or colder until transportation to the public health laboratory is available. If access to a freezer is unavailable, please refrigerate sample until transportation is available.  <u>Urine</u> : 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 -20°C or colder until transportation to the public health laboratory is available. If a freezer is unavailable, refrigerate until transportation is available.  -If a laboratory centrifuge is unavailable to process urine samples that will exceed 24 hours until transportation, store samples in refrigerator until transportation to the public health laboratory is available.
<b>Minimum Volume Required</b>	1 ml
<b>Additional Collection Instructions</b>	<u>Throat Swab (preferred respiratory sample)</u> : vigorously swab tonsillar areas with sterile Dacron swab. <u>Nasopharyngeal swab</u> : firmly rub posterior nasopharynx with sterile Dacron swab. Place swab into <b>liquid</b> viral or universal transport medium.  <u>Urine</u> : Collect 10-50 ml urine in a sterile container. Collect from first part of urine stream; first morning void is ideal.

Additional Required Information	<b>N/A</b>
Send Out?	No
Turnaround Time	5 business days
Testing Restrictions	<b>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.</b>
Requisition Form(s)	<a href="http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1035">http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1035</a>
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Note: Collect sample as soon as Measles is suspected.

Updated 7/17/2019