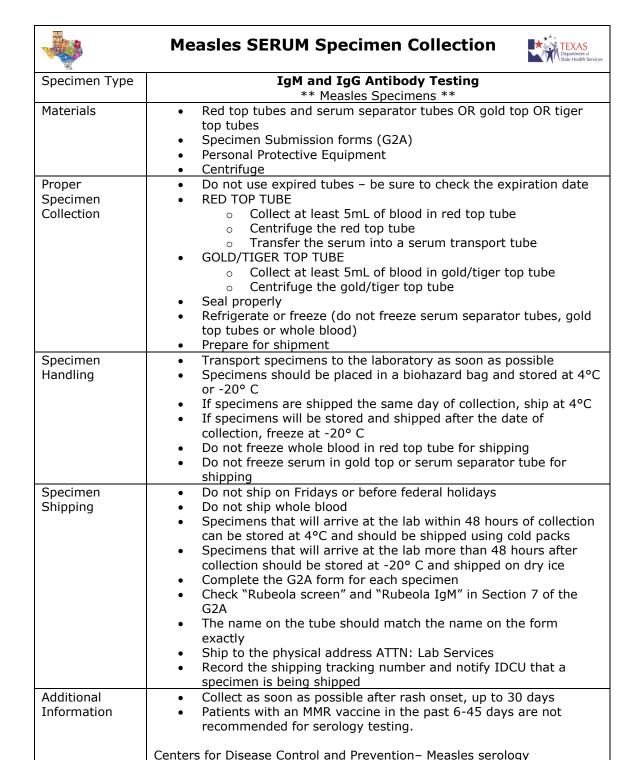


Measles VIRAL Specimen Collection



	Department of State Health Services
Specimen	PCR TESTING
Type Materials	** Measles Specimens ** • Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes • Specimen submission forms (G2V) • Personal protective equipment • Tongue depressors • Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon • NO cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or any that contain calcium alginate
Proper Specimen Collection	 Do not use expired media – be sure to check the expiration date With mouth open, depress tongue Swab posterior pharynx, avoiding the tonsils Put tip of swab in the VTM, breaking applicator stick Seal properly Freeze or refrigerate Prepare for shipment Throat swabs are the preferred specimens for DSHS testing Nasopharyngeal swabs and urine are also acceptable specimens for measles testing
Specimen Handling	 Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -70° C If specimens are shipped the same day of collection, ship at 4°C If specimens will be stored and shipped after the date of collection, freeze at -70° C DO NOT store samples in a standard freezer – this inactivates the virus DO NOT have repeated freeze thaw cycles – this inactivates the virus
Specimen Shipping	 Do not ship on Fridays or before federal holidays Specimens stored at 4°C are shipped using cold packs Specimens stored at -70° C are shipped on dry ice Complete the G2V form for each specimen Check the "Measles PCR" box in Section 4 of the G2V The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly Ship to the physical address ATTN: Lab Services Record the shipping tracking number and notify IDCU that a specimen is being shipped
Additional Information	Collect as soon as possible after rash onset Preferably within three days Not more than 10-14 days after onset Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Measles PCR http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/rt-pcr.html



http://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/serology.html