

## Measles Specimen Collection Instructions:

IF MEASLES IS SUSPECTED, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
TO DISCUSS CASE AND OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR TESTING!

### Measles Testing at Michigan Bureau of Laboratories:

The MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) performs PCR on throat and nasopharyngeal specimens and measles IgM antibodies on serum. To request testing a DCH-0583 test requisition form must be completed ([www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0583TEST\\_REQUEST\\_7587\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0583TEST_REQUEST_7587_7.pdf)).

- Measles PCR is not on the test form. Please write in measles PCR in the “other” box under virology section of the form.
- All positive PCR specimens will also be forwarded to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for genotyping.

### Testing is Conducted:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday (if urgent and approved, specimen may be tested outside specified days)
- Must arrive to the State Lab by 9 a.m.
- Results will be provided to counties by end of day

### Specimen Type:

**Throat or NP Swabs are the approved specimens for the State Laboratory**

**Specimen type for IgM serology: 1 mL serum**

Store specimens at refrigerated temperatures and ship on frozen cold packs. If specimen is held >24 hours before shipping, freezing is recommended (if freezer is available).

**Specimen type for PCR:** Non-cotton tip with a non-wood shaft eluted in 3 mL viral transport medium in a plastic container.

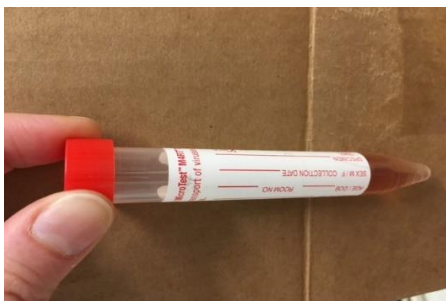
### Common Swab Brands:

Copan 159C Polyester Swab sterile  
FLOQSwabs Copan flocked Swabs

### Common Viral Transport Media:

(sometimes called M4 sometimes called universal transport media)

Remel microtest M4RT Transport for the transport of viruses and chlamydia



### Packaging for Courier Delivery:

Request shipping unit 45 at [www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568\\_7396\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568_7396_7.pdf)

1. Primary container (NP or throat swab placed in viral transport media or a serum sample).
  - a. Ensure cap is securely tightened.
  - b. Use Parafilm cap to prevent leakage.
  - c. Must be labeled properly with patient’s first and last name and another unique patient identifier.

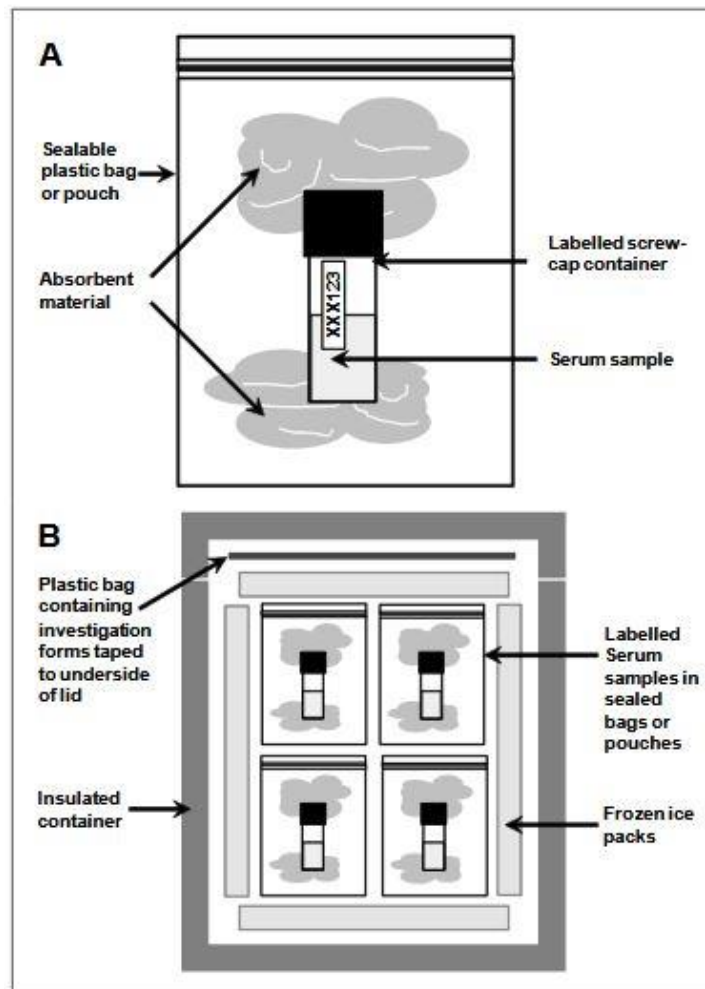
2. Place absorbent material around primary container (enough to be able to drink up all the fluid if the whole container spilled out).
3. Place primary container (with absorbent material) in secondary bag and seal.
4. Keep serum and swab specimens refrigerated until ready to send to the state laboratory. Specimens must be transported at refrigerated temperatures (or on cold packs).
5. When ready to send to the state laboratory, place test requisition on outside of secondary container.
  - a. Some secondary container bags have a separate outer pouch for the test requisition.
  - b. Do **NOT** place the test requisition in the same bag as the specimen.
6. Please make sure outside container is labeled "Refrigerate upon receipt."
7. Place secondary container in outside container (many times it is a cooler in the courier car).

For Category B shipping and packaging instructions via FedEx or UPS or US Postal Service:  
[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551\\_2945\\_5103\\_5278-14793--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5103_5278-14793--,00.html)

Questions for packaging and shipping can be referred to Shannon Sharp at the MI-BOL  
[sharps1@michigan.gov](mailto:sharps1@michigan.gov)

All other questions can be referred to Dr. Diana Riner Bureau of Laboratories Virology Section Manager  
[rinerd@michigan.gov](mailto:rinerd@michigan.gov) 517-335-8099 or cell 517-230-7828

**Figure 12. Packaging of serum samples.**  
 A - individual samples in a sealed bag or pouch.  
 B - multiple samples in an insulated container.



[https://www.who.int/ihr/elibrary/manual\\_diagn\\_lab\\_mea\\_rub\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/ihr/elibrary/manual_diagn_lab_mea_rub_en.pdf)

Revised: 4/29/2019