

# LabMed Report

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**IN THIS ISSUE:** Measles

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Guidelines for managing measles outbreaks are available at:  
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4209.pdf>

Current MIHAN (Michigan Health Alert Network) publication

**If measles is suspected:** Per MDHHS guidelines, collect both of these specimens for diagnosis:

1. Throat or nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media for PCR testing
2. Serum (blood draw) for IgM antibody testing to measles (1 gold top tube)

Both samples should be collected at the same time. Although collection of both samples is preferred, it is acceptable to collect only the swab for PCR testing.

Specimens can be sent via the lab courier following the usual bloodborne pathogen transport protocols. Samples will be forwarded to the Michigan Bureau of Laboratories in Lansing for testing.

## **Requisition:**

The test name to provide on laboratory requisitions is “Measles Outbreak Testing” or “Measles PCR”.

## **Collection Supplies:**

Throat swab: Viral Transport media kit (same kit used for HSV testing), refrigerate sample.

Nasopharyngeal swab: collect using the Flu/RSV kit, refrigerate sample.

Blood: Gold top tube at least half full, spin and refrigerate spun sample.

All supplies can be ordered using the usual Lab Supply order form. Or you may call your local hospital laboratory: <https://d2xk4h2me8pjt2.cloudfront.net/webjc/attachments/148/c7cf98a-laboratory-contacts-revised-9.28.18.pdf>

Please do not send potentially infective patients to Munson Medical Center Emergency Room or Munson Urgent Care for specimen collection unless emergent/urgent care is also needed.

## **Other measles info:**

- Munson Medical Center laboratory does offer IgG for measles (Rubeola) and Rubella to check for, or to prove, immune status
- Family practitioner's/primary care providers or local health department may provide vaccination for those requesting immunization

[Measles Screening and Specimen Collection Guidance for Offices Utilizing Munson Medical Center Laboratory.pdf](#)