UCSF Health

Measles Testing Guidance



If you suspect measles, place the patient on Airborne Isolation and call UCSF Infection Control immediately.

Measles polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing from a throat or nasopharyngeal swab and from urine are the preferred diagnostic tests to evaluate persons with suspected acute measles infection. Measles PCR test processing is performed in public health laboratories.

You must contact UCSF Infection Control immediately for any possible measles case. **Approval by both Infection Control** and the Department of Public Health (San Francisco Department of Public Health: 628-217-6100 for the SFDPH on-call physician; Alameda County Public Health Department: 510-267-3250 or off hours 925-422-7595) **is required** before measles PCR testing can be ordered.

Measles Test	Testing Indication	Order	How to Find the Order	Test Specifications
Throat swab for measles PCR (preferred) or nasopharyngeal swab for measles PCR (alternative option) *and* Urine for measles PCR	Used to evaluate persons with possible acute measles infection	Use the **"MEASLES (RUBEOLA) TESING PANEL FOR SUSPECTED INFECTION"** order panel (available for inpatient and ambulatory orders) This order panel includes both throat swab/NP swab and urine measles PCR test orders	In APeX orders, choose the "Facility List" tab, search for "measles", then select "Measles (Rubeola) Testing Panel for Suspected Infection"	Refer to the UCSF Clinical Laboratories Test Directory for detailed instructions. San Francisco: https://www.testmenu.com/UCSFClinLab Oakland: https://www.testmenu.com/UBCHOLab
Measles IgM*	This test is generally NOT part of possible acute measles infection testing and should only be ordered if specifically requested by Infection	Do not order this unless specifically requested by Infection Prevention and/or public health	In APeX orders, choose the "Facility List" tab, search for "measles", then select "Measles (Rubeola) Antibody, IgM (LC5434)	Refer to the UCSF Clinical Laboratories Test Directory for detailed instructions. San Francisco: https://www.testmenu.com/UCSFClinLab

	Prevention and/or public health.			Oakland: https://www.testmenu.com/UBCHOLab
IgG	Assesses immunity to measles / MMR vaccine response. Do not send this for evaluation of persons with possible acute measles infection.	Measles IgG (serum) Lab	In APeX orders, choose the "Facility List" tab, search for "measles", then select "Measles (Rubeola) Antibody, IgG (assess immunity) (LAB3197)	Refer to the UCSF Clinical Laboratories Test Directory for detailed instructions. San Francisco: https://www.testmenu.com/UCSFClinLab Oakland: https://www.testmenu.com/UBCHOLab

* A serum measles IgM is not generally needed for diagnosis of acute measles infection but may be recommended in addition to measles PCR testing depending on timing of presentation for testing.

Additional UCSF measles resources are located here.