

Measles Diagnostics



If you suspect measles, place the patient on Airborne Isolation and call [UCSF Infection Control](#) immediately.

Measles polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from the urine and throat/nasopharynx is the preferred testing method for acute cases of measles and is performed in public health laboratories. To coordinate testing, call SF Department of Health (415) 554–2830 including after hours, by contacting the on call physician.

| Measles Test | Testing Indication | Order | Test Code | Test Specifications |
|--|--|--|-----------|---|
| Throat/NP/nasal PCR <i>and</i> Urine PCR | Acute measles testing | Measles RNA PCR Microbiology- Test not listed (special sendout test) <i>This single order includes the NP OR throat AND urine test.</i> <i>It also includes serum IgM, though this is not required for routine acute measles testing*</i> | P319 | Refer to the lab manual |
| IgM* | Acute measles testing* | Measles Antibody, IgM | MEAM | Refer to the lab manual ; CDPH can also run this test |
| IgG | Assess prior exposure/vaccine response | Measles IgG (serum) Lab | MEAI | Refer to the lab manual |

*Sending serum for measles antibody testing in addition to throat/NP/nasal swab and urine PCR may be recommended by CDPH and is preferred when feasible, but is not required.

[SF Public Health Laboratory specimen collection and storage](#)

[CA Department of Health Measles Laboratory Testing Guidance 4/2019](#)

[CA Department of Health Requisition Form](#)