

Measles Testing Guidance



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

Measles polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from the throat/nasopharynx and urine 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/nose PCR and Urine PCR	Acute measles testing	<p>Inpatient/ED Use the order panel 'IP Measles (Rubeola) Profile-Suspect Cases'</p> <p>Outpatient Use the order panel 'UCSF Amb Measles (Rubeola) Profile- Suspect Cases'</p> <p><i>This single order includes the NP OR throat AND urine test.*</i></p>	P319	Refer to the lab manual
IgM*	Acute measles testing*	<p>Inpatient/ED Use the order panel 'IP Measles (Rubeola)Profile-Suspect Cases'</p> <p>Outpatient Use the order panel 'UCSF Amb Measles (Rubeola) Profile- Suspect Cases'</p>	MEAM	Refer to the lab manual ; CDPH can also run this test
IgG	Assess prior immunity/vaccine response	Measles IgG (serum) Lab	MEAI	Refer to the lab manual

*Sending serum for measles antibody testing in addition to throat/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](#)