Florida HEALTH
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

Test Menu

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Test Name	Measles virus (MeV) (Rubeola), PCR
Other Name (s)	Real-time PCR, RT-PCR, real-time RT-PCR, nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT)
Analyte(s)	measles (MeV)
Test Code	1755
Lab location	Jacksonville and Tampa locations
Department	Virology
Prior Authorization	Requires prior approval from Regional Epidemiology and notification to the testing lab. Contact local County Health Department to start the process for approval.
Required Forms	Test Requisition Form, DH1847. Medical History needed (i.e., dates MMR vaccination, onset date, collection date, travel history and symptoms).
Specimen Sources	Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs with paired urine.
Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation	Specimens should be collected as soon as possible after rash, preferably within 3 days following onset of rash.
Minimum Volume	Minimum of 1 mL, 5-10mL preferred, for Urine. 1 mL NP or throat swab in VTM or UTM
Storage Conditions	Refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C after collection.
Collection Media	Dacron swab in Viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM). Clean voided urine in labeled sterile container (no media) with an external cap and an internal O-ring. paired urine in sterile container.
Specimen Labeling	-Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers, Ex: Name and DOB. -The collection date and time if submitting multiple specimens. **-Information on the specimen must match the requisition.**
Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling	Specimens must be shipped between (2-8°C) immediately. Separate multiple specimens into different bags (preferred).
Test Methodology	Real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay
Turnaround Time	1 – 5 days
Result Indicator	Measles virus detected or no virus detected
Unsatisfactory Specimen	Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips or with wooden shafts. Unlabeled or mislabeled specimens, insufficient quantity for testing, incorrect collection tube/transport media, grossly contaminated specimen, disparity between ID on sample and paperwork, improper collection, storage or transport of specimen, no test requested, test requested is not performed. If required, the absence of patient history. If required, the lack of patient history that is compatible with test requested. Test order cancelled by provider, broken, or leaked in transit, etc.
Interferences and Limitations	Specimen warming or freeze thawing reduces sensitivity. A negative result should not be used to rule out measles infection as many variables can affect specimen quality. Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips or with wooden shafts, can result in inactivation of some viruses and inhibit some molecular assays.
Additional Information & Notes	Requires prior approval from CHD and notification to the testing lab.
Reference Range	Measles virus detected or no virus detected
Reference Lab	CDC if needed
Reflex testing	N/A