

Laboratory News

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Measles PCR Testing Now Available at Marshfield

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Microbiology and Molecular Pathology Laboratory will begin performing Measles by PCR testing in-house.

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Effective September 10th, the Marshfield Clinic Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will begin performing Measles Testing by PCR. Bringing this testing into our lab will allow for timely and accurate test results that are essential for effective infection prevention practices and patient safety.

Test Details

Test Code: MEASLESNAT (Measles, Nucleic Acid Test)

- **Specimen Collection:** Dacron or polyester swab(s) as below placed in viral transport media (UTM, VTM)
 - Nasopharyngeal swab (preferred)
 - Oropharyngeal (throat) swab
 - Combined nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swab
- **Collection Processing Instructions:**
 - Detection of Measles RNA is most successful when samples are collected on the first day of rash through the 3 days following onset of rash.
 - Detection of measles RNA by PCR may be successful as late as 10-14 days after rash onset.
 - Collect sample as soon as measles disease is suspected.

➤ **Transport Temperature & Stability:**

- Refrigerate: \leq 72 hours
- Frozen: 3 months

➤ **Rejection Criteria:**

- Specimens outside of the above stability range.
- Improper specimen type (e.g. Nasal swab, buccal swab).
- Specimens collected with an unacceptable swab type (e.g. cotton or calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden sticks).
- Dry swabs, or swabs placed in unacceptable transport media (e.g. Amies media).

➤ **Performed:** Monday through Sunday

➤ **CPT Code:** 87798

Questions

For questions related to testing, please contact Dr. Sophie Arbefeville or Dr. Taylor Wahlig.

For specimen collection kits, please contact Lab Customer Service at 1-800-222-5835.