



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE  

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**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**BUREAU OF LABORATORIES**

[www.statelab.idaho.gov](http://www.statelab.idaho.gov)

**IDAHO SENTINEL LABORATORY NETWORK LAB ADVISORY**

February 12, 2019

MEASLES TESTING AT IDAHO BUREAU OF LABORATORIES (IBL)

Given the urgency of recent measles testing requests, IBL asks that laboratories or providers please contact [your local public health district](#) to determine where samples should be submitted before sending measles specimens to IBL. Please see the CDC "[Diagnosis and Laboratory Testing](#)" resources for guidance on appropriate measles specimens and testing considerations. IBL does **not** perform measles IgM testing. Serum for Measles-specific IgM antibody must be sent to a commercial laboratory.

IBL can perform [Measles RT-PCR](#) on throat, nasal, or nasopharyngeal swabs sent in Viral Transport Media. Detection of measles RNA by RT-PCR is most successful when samples are collected 1-3 days following onset of rash but may be effective as late as 10-14 days post rash onset. Samples submitted to IBL require **both** a [Clinical Test Request Form](#) and an [IBL Supplementary Form for Measles](#). Please complete both forms and include them with the sample.

Urine samples are acceptable but are not the preferred specimen type. All urine samples received at IBL will be forwarded to a Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Reference Center for testing. Referred urine samples will require an [additional submittal form](#) and the results will be delayed due shipping time.

**Message Categories**

**Lab Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Lab Advisory:** important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Lab Update:** updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.