

2025 DCLS Measles Testing Reminders

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) must approve patients for measles testing at DCLS prior to submitting specimens for testing. Contact your local Health Department for assistance.

I. Specimen Collection and Storage

1. DCLS accepts the following specimens for testing.
 - **Real-Time PCR (OP swab and urine will only be tested if they accompany a NP swab)**
 1. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs in VTM* - **primary specimen**
 2. Oropharyngeal (OP)/Throat swabs in VTM - **secondary specimen**
 3. Urine collected in a sealed, sterile specimen cup - **secondary specimen**
 - * **Note:** Universal Transport Media (UTM) is not acceptable for measles testing
 - **Serology (IgM and IgG)**
 1. Serum - collected in a red-top blood tube, spun down and serum placed in a sterile tube, or
 2. Serum - collected in a serum-separator blood tube and spun down
2. DCLS provides measles test kits to customers that will submit specimens to DCLS for testing.
 - Kits may be requested at **DCLS_SSSKits@dgs.virginia.gov**
 - Submitters may utilize their own inventory of unexpired synthetic swabs and VTM
3. Store collected samples refrigerated at 4°C until transport.

II. Specimen Transport and Submission

4. Transport specimens to DCLS immediately after collection, but no later than 48 hours after collection.
5. Specimens should be transported refrigerated with **frozen** ice packs to ensure specimens have an arrival temperature of 2-8°C.
6. A completed DCLS Test Request Form must be submitted for each patient that will be tested.
 - **Full patient name and date of birth (must match specimen label)**
 - **Complete submitter information**
 - **Complete treating physician information**
 - **Date and time of specimen collection**
 - **Onset date and symptoms**
 - **Suspected disease**
 - **Vaccination and travel history**
 - **VDH Outbreak ID, if applicable**

III. Results Reporting

7. Results will be reported the same day of testing.
8. Verbal reporting of results will be provided to the listed submitter on the test request form and to VDH.
9. Verbal reporting of results can be reported to the treating physician, if contact information is provided on the request form.
10. Hard copy reports will be mailed to the submitter address listed on the request form.

IV. Contact Information

For testing, kits and/or transport questions, contact the following:

- **Dr. LaToya Griffin-Thomas (Lead Scientist, Respiratory/VPD Testing):** 804-648-4480, x281
- **Sean Kelly (Group Manager, PCR Testing):** 804-648-4480, x227
- **Dr. Heather Masri (Group Manager, Serology Testing):** 804-648-4480, x269
- **Terri Harper (Group Manager, Specimen Transport):** 804-648-4480, x140
- **DCLS Emergency Number:** 804-335-4617

Weblink to the DCLS Test Request Form: <https://dgs.virginia.gov/division-of-consolidated-laboratory-services/resources/submission-forms/>