

## **Measles Testing at Michigan Bureau of Laboratories**

The MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) performs PCR on throat and nasopharyngeal specimens and measles IgM antibodies on serum. To request testing a DCH-0583 test requisition form must be completed.

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551\\_2945\\_5103\\_5278-14806--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5103_5278-14806--,00.html)

- When requesting Measles IgM please also request Rubella IgM.
- Measles PCR is not on the test form. Please write in measles PCR in the other box under virology section of form.
- If Urine is sent in it will be forwarded to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH-VPD Reference Center) for testing.
- All positive PCR specimens will also be forwarded to WSLH for genotyping.

Testing is conducted daily:

Monday-Friday

Must arrive to the State Lab by 9am

Results will be provided to counties by end of day

Special allowances will be considered for possible weekend testing if needed, e.g. possible flight exposure.

### **SPECIMEN PACKAGING FOR COURIER DELIVERY:**

Request shipping unit 45 at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568\\_7396\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568_7396_7.pdf)

Specimen type for PCR: Dacron tip with an aluminum or plastic shaft eluted in 3 ml viral transport medium in a plastic container.

Specimen type for IgM serology: 1 ml serum

1. Primary container (NP or throat swab placed in viral transport media or a serum sample).
  - a. Ensure cap is securely tightened
  - b. Parafilm cap to prevent leakage
  - c. Must be labeled properly with patient's first and last name and another unique patient identifier
2. Place absorbent material around primary container (enough to be able to drink up all the fluid if the whole container spilled out)
3. Place primary container (with absorbent material) in secondary bag and seal.

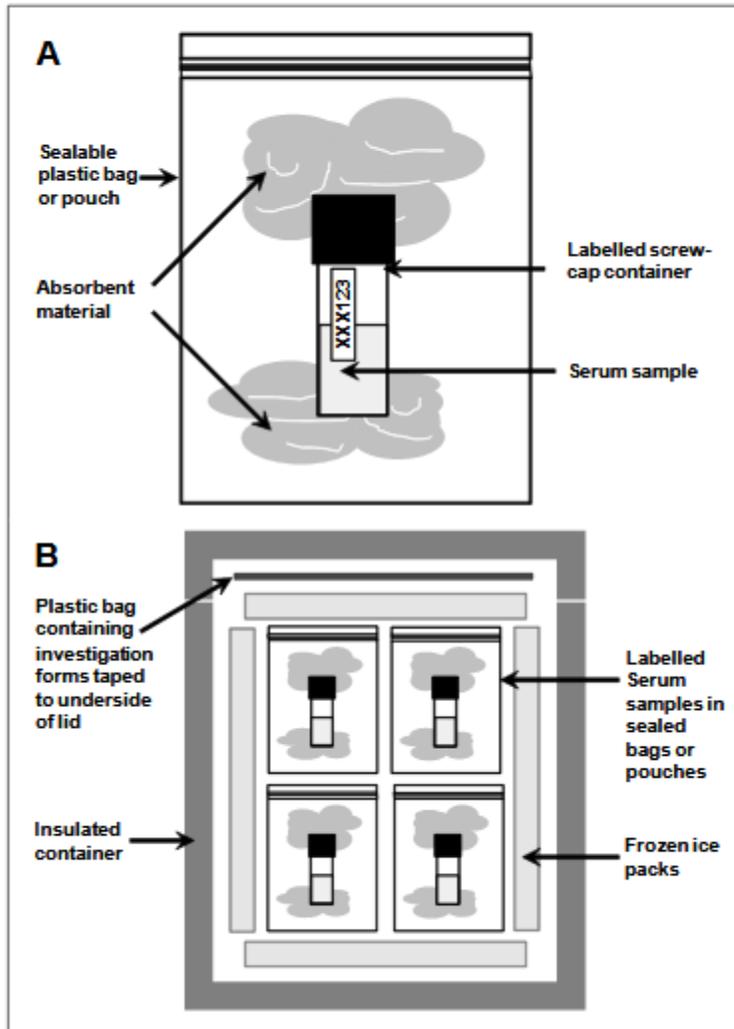
4. Keep serum and swab specimens refrigerated until ready to send to the state laboratory. Specimens must be transported at refrigerated temperatures (or on cold packs).
5. When ready to send to the state laboratory, place test requisition on outside of secondary container
  - a. Some secondary container bags have a separate outer pouch for the test requisition
  - b. Do NOT place the test requisition in with the same bag as the specimen
6. Please make sure outside container is labelled "Refrigerate upon receipt".
7. Place secondary container in outside container (many times it is a cooler in the courier car)

For Category B shipping and packaging instructions via FedEx or UPS or US Postal Service  
[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551\\_2945\\_5103\\_5278---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5103_5278---,00.html)

Questions for packaging and shipping can be referred to Shannon Sharp at the MI-BOL  
[sharps1@michigan.gov](mailto:sharps1@michigan.gov)

All other questions can be referred to Dr. Diana Riner Bureau of Laboratories Virology Section  
Manager [rinerd@michigan.gov](mailto:rinerd@michigan.gov) 517-335-8099 or cell 517-230-7828

Figure 12. Packaging of serum samples.  
A - individual samples in a sealed bag or pouch.  
B - multiple samples in an insulated container.



[https://www.who.int/ihr/elibrary/manual\\_diagn\\_lab\\_mea\\_rub\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/ihr/elibrary/manual_diagn_lab_mea_rub_en.pdf)