

Laboratory Services

Important Test Announcement

UPDATES TO MEASLES VIRUS BY PCR WITH REFLEX AND MEASLES (RUBEOLA) ANTIBODY, IGM TESTING

Measles is a Class A reportable disease (OAC Chapter 3701-3) and requires immediate notification of any suspected case to public health authorities. Prior to collection of any measles test specimens, ordering providers must notify the local public health department where the patient resides.

It is the responsibility of the provider to establish all required public health correspondence and compliance.

Per ODH and CDC guidelines, both serology and respiratory (nasopharyngeal) samples should be collected. The **Measles Virus by PCR with Reflex (MEA)** is performed at NCH. Positive samples are referred for genotyping. Samples testing negative for the virus, submitted with serum for serology, are sent to a reference lab for antibody testing.

Effective 7/29/2025, reference lab testing for **Measles (Rubeola) Antibody, IgM (XMEAM)** will be transitioned from ODH to ARUP.

As a reminder, individuals requiring measles specimen collection should not present to Urgent Care or ED locations for testing purposes only, in order to avoid exposures. Specimen collection must be scheduled and is available at select locations only –clinicians should call the closest Urgent Care/Lab location noted below to schedule:

- Canal Winchester – (614) 355-9050
- Dublin – (614) 355-7000
- East Broad – (614) 355-8100
- Hilliard – (614) 355-5900
- Marysville – (937) 578-7600
- Westerville – (614) 355-8300

MEASLES (RUBEOLA) ANTIBODY, IGM

Test Code: **XMEAM**

Live Date: **7/29/2025**

- **Methodology:** Semi-Quantitative Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
- **Performed:** Monday-Friday
- **Turnaround Time:** 1 week
- **Specimen Required:**

Collect: Whole Blood, Red or Gold Tube

Specimen Volume: 3 mL

Specimen Preparation: N/A

Storage/Transport/Temperature: Centrifuge within 2 hours then separate. After separation from cells: Ambient – 48 hours; Refrigerated – 2 weeks; Frozen – 1 year.

Unacceptable Conditions: Contamination, heat-treated specimen, hemolyzed specimen, icteric specimen, or gross lipemia. Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles.

Comments: Parallel testing is preferred and convalescent specimens must be received within 30 days from receipt of the acute specimens. Mark specimens plainly as “acute” or “convalescent.”

There will be no changes to **Measles Virus by PCR with Reflex (MEA)** testing requirements.

If you have any additional questions about testing, please refer to the [Laboratory Test Directory](#) or call Client Services at 614-722-5477.