

Should I Test For Measles?

A Guide for California Healthcare Providers

While suspecting measles in your patient, immediately mask and isolate the patient per airborne precautions.*

STEP 1 - HISTORY

In the 21 days prior to onset of illness, has patient had any of the following?

- Known exposure to a person with measles?
- International travel, contact with an international traveler, or been to an international airport in the US?
- Visited a venue popular with international visitors?
- Visited or resided in a US community with measles cases?

Current listings at bit.ly/2JqBbMW



If **YES** to any, continue

If **NO** to all, testing not required.
Measles very unlikely.



STEP 2 - EXAM

Has the patient had a combination of...?

- **FEVER**
 - And one or more of: **COUGH, CONJUNCTIVITIS, or RUNNY NOSE**
 - And **RASH**†
 - * Red-brown macules or papules - may become confluent patches
 - * Begins on face and progresses downwards to the rest of the body
 - * Typically appears within a few days after other symptoms begin
- If no rash within 4 days after onset of illness, measles is unlikely.



If **YES**

If **NO**

STEP 3

1. **CALL** Contra Costa Public Health **24/7 to report** the suspect case and obtain testing approval at Public Health. Call 925-313-6740 M-F from 8AM – 5PM (or, after hours the Health Officer can be reached at 925-646-2441)
2. **FAX** the completed CCHS '[Measles Case History Form](#)' to Public Health at 925-313-6465.
⇒ <https://cchealth.org/measles/providers.php>
1. **COLLECT** specimens for PCR testing
 - Urine (10-50 mL in sterile container), AND
 - Dacron swab of throat (preferred) or nasopharynx in viral transport media (VTM) (see [Photo Guide](#))
4. **SEND** specimens to Contra Costa Public Health Laboratory (2500 Alhambra Ave, Rm 209, Martinez, CA 94553) and attach a completed '[Laboratory Requisition Slip](#)' for each specimen
⇒ <https://cchealth.org/laboratory/>

Measles unlikely, testing not required.

As needed, call public health for consultation.

*Place patient in a negative pressure room when available; if not, examine the patient outside the facility or in a private room with the door closed; minimize the time patient spends in the facility. Other precautions apply.

†Immunization in last month with MMR or MMRV can be a cause of measles-like rash - check immunization history. Testing is not indicated if immunized against measles in last month and answer is no to all questions in Step 1.