



HEALTH PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE

Sample Collection for Measles PCR

May 2017

INTRODUCTION

Measles PCR testing is referred to Canterbury Health Laboratories (CHL).

Please refer to Canterbury Health Laboratories website if further details are required:

<http://www.labnet.health.nz/testmanager/index.php>

NB. State measles clearly on the request form!

*Please note: Collection Rooms **DO NOT** take nasopharyngeal swabs*

RT-PCR - SAMPLE REQUIRED

To be used in prodrome and first 5 days of rash only.

Nasopharyngeal swab

Use **CHL Respiratory Virus or Measles PCR Collection Pack** (below)

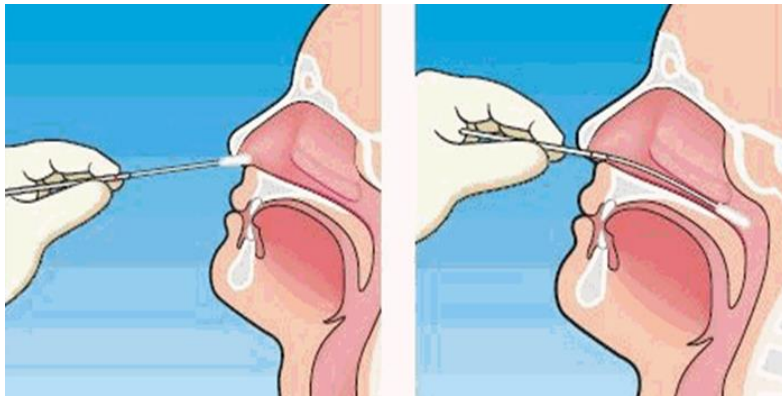
Adult orange top swab – preferable due to higher yield

Paediatric white top swab – can also be used in adults if required



SAMPLE COLLECTION**Nasopharyngeal swab**

1. Insert swab into one nostril
2. Introduce the swab **gently** and push it forwards with gentle downwards pressure on the lower nasal floor, to the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. Rotate the swab twice before gently removing. **Sample via one nostril only**



3. Place the swab into the red top vial fluid and carefully break off the shaft at the break point
4. Close the lid tightly
5. Label sample vial with patient first and last names, NHI number, date of birth and date of collection
6. Place the sample vial in a separate plastic specimen bag, then double-bag for protection against spillage
7. Deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible or store at 4⁰C if delay is expected

REQUEST FORM

1. Record contact details for requester as the Laboratory staff need to know who to notify for critical results
2. Request form must include information about measles suspicion and immunisation and clinical history.
3. Ensure the request form is placed in the OUTSIDE pocket of the biohazard sample bag

SAFETY

1. Keep yourself safe; wear appropriate personal protective equipment following Ministry of Health guidelines
2. Ensure request form is completed with adequate clinical details. If measles is suspected make sure that this is clear and obvious
3. Sample containers should be double-bagged before storage and transportation
4. After swab collection, make sure the request form is in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag