



COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

Measles Assessment Checklist

Report all SUSPECTED measles cases immediately to Whitman County Health Department.

www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions/Measles

Consider measles in the differential diagnosis of patients with fever and rash:

Form with sections: Section 1 (Fever, Rash characteristics, Symptoms) and Section 2 (Immunization, Exposure, Travel). Includes questions like 'What is the highest temperature recorded?' and 'Does the rash have any of the characteristics listed?'.



Measles should be *highly suspected* if you answered **YES** to at least one item in **B AND C** in Section 1, **PLUS** a **YES** in D, E, or F in Section 2.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

- **Mask and isolate** the patient (in negative air pressure room when possible) AND
- **Call Whitman County Public Health** to report suspect cases, get permission for testing at PHL if needed, and initiate the case investigation to help prevent spread.
 - 509.332.6752 during normal business hours
 - 509.595.4834 after hours (duty officer)

Collect the following specimens

- **Preferred: Nasopharyngeal (NP) or throat swab for rubeola PCR and culture**
 - Swab the posterior nasal passage with a Dacron™ or rayon swab and place the swab in 2–3 ml of viral transport medium. Store specimen in refrigerator and transport on ice.
 - Most accurate day 0-5 after rash onset.
- **Urine for measles PCR and culture**
 - Collect at least 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container and store in refrigerator.
 - Urine PCR test is most sensitive between ≥72 hours and 10 days after rash onset and may not be positive until >4 days after symptom onset.
- **Serum for measles IgM and IgG testing**
 - Draw at least 4-5 ml blood (yields about 1.5 ml serum) in a red or tiger top (serum separator) tube. Store specimen in refrigerator and transport on ice.
 - IgM is most accurate greater than 72 hours after rash onset
 - **NOTE:** *neither IgM nor IgG antibody responses can distinguish measles disease from the response to vaccination in a patient with suspected measles that has been vaccinated 6-45 days prior to blood collection.*

Submit laboratory specimens to your preferred commercial laboratory.

- If you need to submit specimens directly to WA-Public Health Labs, please contact Whitman County Public Health. Pre-approval from the Department of Health is required for measles specimen submissions.

For questions, please call **Whitman County Public Health at (509) 332-6752.**