



## **MLS: Laboratory Update**

### **Measles Outbreak in Hennepin County Update #2**

**March 25, 2011**

#### **Purpose of this Message**

To make you aware of eleven cases of measles that have been confirmed in Hennepin County - Minnesota, to inform you about acceptable specimen types for testing at MDH-PHL, and to clarify testing requirements at MDH.

#### **Background**

Eleven cases of measles have been confirmed in Hennepin County. Cases range in age from 4 months to 35 years old. The healthcare community was alerted on March 4 to the initial case in the 9-month-old. All cases are laboratory confirmed by measles IgM serology and/or positive PCR. Five cases were unvaccinated, four cases were too young for MMR vaccine, and two of the cases the vaccination history is unknown. The most recent case was confirmed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Specimen Criteria**

Health care providers who have a high index of suspicion for measles should be directed to:

- In order of preference, obtain specimens for PCR (throat swab, urine), serology (serum), and culture (throat swab, nasal wash, and urine)
- Promptly report suspected measles cases to MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414
- Send the specimens to MDH-PHL. MDH requests 2 ml of serum (minimum of 100 ul needed), 5 ml of urine, and 500 ul of nasal wash for testing. Non-wooden swabs placed in viral transport media (VTM) are optimal for culture and PCR.
- Specimens should be refrigerated until received at MDH.

#### **Questions regarding Specimen Transport**

If you have questions on how to transport specimens to MDH, please call 651-201-5577

#### **For Additional Information Regarding Measles, Including Laboratory Fact Sheets**

Go to: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/index.html>

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This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

**\*\*Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System\*\***

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