

MLS Laboratory Update: Travel-Associated Measles Cases in Hennepin County

JUNE 16, 2022

Purpose of this Message:

To inform MLS laboratories of two confirmed cases of measles in a 5-year-old resident of Hennepin County and their sibling. The information provided is to guide laboratories on measles specimen testing criteria.

Background:

A case of laboratory-confirmed measles has been identified in a 5-year-old resident of Hennepin County who recently returned from a country endemic with measles. The case was not infectious during travel. A sibling of the 5-year-old later developed symptoms and tested positive for measles. Measles was laboratory confirmed for both children by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory. Exposures mainly occurred at two health care facilities in the metro area.

The initial patient's clinical symptoms included cough, coryza, red eyes, fever and rash. Rash onset occurred on June 7, 2022. Secondary cases in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and July 1st. Neither child had received any doses of MMR vaccine.

Specimen Information:

If requested by a provider, obtain specimens for PCR, complete IDL Submission form and send to MDH-PHL. Collection instructions can be viewed at: Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory. (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html>)

Specimen Collection

- A throat swab collected with Dacron swab tip is preferred if collected within the first 5 days after symptom onset.
- Swab should be placed in viral transport medium or similar.
- Throat swab and urine should be sent if collected between days 6 and 9 days of symptom onset.
 - Nasal swabs, nasopharyngeal swabs or washes are acceptable but not preferred.

Appropriate Swabs

- BBL Culture Swab, Dacron swabs, Culturettes

Appropriate Media

MLS LABORATORY ALERT: TRAVEL ASSOCIATED MEASLES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

- Viral transport medium (VTM), Universal transport medium (UTM), M5, M4, Minimum Essential Medium (MEM), Saline, Balanced salt solutions (BSS), Sterile isotonic solutions, Phosphate buffered salines (PBS), Liquid Stuart's Medium

Shipping to MDH: Specimens must be transported at refrigeration temperature.

- A refrigerated cold pack is recommended to maintain appropriate temperature during transport.

For questions about lab testing, please contact Victoria Lappi, Interim Virology Supervisor:
Victoria.lappi@state.mn.us or 651-201-5264.

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

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

Minnesota Laboratory System
Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory
601 Robert St. N, St. Paul, MN 55164-0899
651-201-5200
health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/mls/index.html

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.