

# Updated measles testing process: streamlined electronic test requests for Iowa clinicians

## Health Update

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To streamline and expedite measles testing in Iowa, Iowa HHS in collaboration with the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) has created an online measles test request form to use when measles is suspected in a patient.

**Beginning today, instead of calling the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE), Iowa clinicians pursuing testing should complete an online form to request rapid measles PCR testing at SHL in Coralville, Iowa.** The same information typically provided over the phone will be required: patient demographics, ordering healthcare provider information, patient symptoms, potential exposure details, and measles vaccination history. Once submitted, a CADE epidemiologist will review the information and notify SHL of the test request. *Please do not request testing for patients who are asymptomatic, who do not have measles-like symptoms, or who are seeking testing for immunity.* If you have questions or would like to consult with a CADE epidemiologist, call 1-800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours and request the on-call epidemiologist.

### Iowa clinicians should:

- Maintain a high index of suspicion for measles. Measles typically presents with a prodrome of fever (which may exceed 104°F), cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis (the three “C”s), followed by a maculopapular rash that spreads from the head to the trunk and then to the lower extremities.
- Isolate: Do not allow patients with suspected measles to remain in waiting rooms or other common areas. Isolate immediately, preferably in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR). If an AIIR is not available, place in a private room with a closed door until an AIIR becomes available. Clinicians should have presumptive evidence of immunity and use standard and airborne precautions, including a fit tested N95 respirator or equivalent, when evaluating suspect cases.
- Inform: **Notify Iowa HHS of the suspected case by completing the online test request form accessed through this URL:** <https://redcap.link/shlmeaslestestrequest> or by scanning the QR code below
- Test: HHS recommends a nasopharyngeal (NP) or oropharyngeal (OP) swab paired with a urine specimen for PCR testing. **Collect recommended specimens and print the pre-filled patient-specific specimen and test request forms available through the online test request form.** Send specimens and forms to your hospital laboratory with a request for SHL (STAT Courier) pickup.
- Advise: Request patients remain at home and avoid contact with others until test results are available, as results will guide further public health recommendations.



For the latest case counts and measles guidance in Iowa, visit the Iowa HHS CADE disease information page (<https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/disease-information>).

Chris Galeazzi, MPH  
Senior Epidemiologist  
Division of Public Health  
Iowa HHS

[Chris.Galeazzi@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Chris.Galeazzi@hhs.iowa.gov)

Robert Kruse, MD, MPH  
State Medical Director  
Director, Division of Public Health  
Iowa HHS

[Robert.Kruse@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Robert.Kruse@hhs.iowa.gov)

Matthew Donahue, MD  
State Epidemiologist & Deputy Medical Director  
Division of Public Health  
Iowa HHS

[Matthew.Donahue@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Donahue@hhs.iowa.gov)