

Measles Online Test Request Process Overview

When you have a patient for whom measles testing is needed, begin the request process using the [Measles Test Request Form](https://redcap.link/shlmeaslestestrequest) (<https://redcap.link/shlmeaslestestrequest>)
(You may also access the form by scanning the QR code at right.)



You no longer need to call Iowa HHS to receive pre-approval to test a patient.

Wait until all clinical information is available and specimens have been collected before completing the request. You will need to document the date and time each specimen was collected on Pages 2 and 3 of the online request.

The information you enter populates the forms you will download, print and send to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL). Missing or incomplete information may delay testing.

Page 1 – Initial Test Request

Enter the following information:

- ▶ Patient information
- ▶ Ordering healthcare provider information
- ▶ Provider organization information
- ▶ Patient symptoms
- ▶ Potential exposure information
- ▶ Vaccination history

Click **Submit** to continue to Page 2.

Pages 2 & 3 – Specimens

(Information about acceptable specimen types and collection is provided at the end of this document)

Enter the following information:

- ▶ Date and time of collection for specimen 1
- ▶ Specimen 1 type (OP, NP, or urine)
- ▶ Date and time of collection for specimen 2
- ▶ Specimen 2 type (OP, NP, or urine)

Click **Submit** after each page to continue to Page 4.

Page 4 – Download Forms

Click on the link in the “Download Test Request Forms” section (shown below) to download the test request packet.

DOWNLOAD TEST REQUEST FORMS	
Download forms and separate pages to pair with the appropriate specimen	SHLMEASLESTRF-16-16_2026-...40024.pdf (0.03 MB)
For questions or concerns please contact the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 outside of business hours.	

The packet generates a two-page document. Print the document and separate the pages into two individual forms—one for specimen 1 and one for specimen 2. Make sure each form is correctly paired with its corresponding specimen.

You no longer need to submit a separate SHL test request form for measles testing. The form downloaded from Page 4 is the only form required.

Click **Submit** on Page 4 to complete the online test request.

Courier and Testing Information

Send the specimens and printed forms to your hospital laboratory. Your hospital lab will need to submit a STAT courier pickup request to transport specimens to SHL.

- ▶ Requests submitted before 10:30 AM will be picked up the same day.
- ▶ Requests submitted after 10:30 AM will be picked up the next day.

The courier stops at each hospital laboratory daily, including weekends and holidays, as long as a pickup request is entered.

Testing typically occurs the business day after specimens arrive at SHL. When results are available, an Iowa HHS epidemiologist will call the provider at the phone number supplied in the online form.

If you have questions about the process or would like to consult with a CADE epidemiologist call **(800) 362-2736** during business hours or **(515) 323-4360** after hours and request to speak with the epidemiologist on-call.

Specimen Information

Specimens for PCR testing

Collect a throat swab **or** a nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media (throat swab preferred) **and**

Collect a urine specimen when possible.

If urine cannot be produced, then collect both a throat swab **and** nasopharyngeal swab.

PCR collection instructions

OP (oropharyngeal/throat swab): Swab tonsillar areas and posterior nasopharynx. Use a tongue blade to depress the tongue to avoid saliva contamination. Place the swab into 2-3 mL of viral transport media.

NP (nasopharyngeal): Swab the nasopharynx and place swab into 2-3mL of viral transport media.

Urine: Collect 10-40 mL of urine in a sterile urine container. Have the patient void directly into the container, collecting from the first part of the urine stream if possible.

Appropriate swabs and media

Dacron tipped swabs

Viral transport media (VTM)

(M4, RTM4, UTM are also acceptable)

Generally, swabs used for influenza or respiratory viral panel testing are appropriate.

Inappropriate swabs

Wood-tipped applicators, cotton-tipped swabs, calcium alginate-tipped swabs, charcoal swabs, gel swabs

Dry swabs are not acceptable

For questions regarding specimen types or testing, contact SHL at 319-335-4500.